Welcome to the Webinar World!

For those unfamiliar, herewith a brief guide on how the Webinar platform works

This is a first for us, and no doubt also for many of our readers. So in advance of the 1st Africa Health Webinar on Medical Education on May 24th at 1500hrs (see left-hand page), I thought I'd introduce the concept for those who haven't experienced the process before.

As the name suggests… it is a virtual seminar. Participants register in advance, and then log-on to the actual 'meeting' using the pass codes provided. It is likely that our Keynote speaker will be speaking from the World Health Assembly in Geneva, another presentation will come from Liverpool, and I'll be chairing it… from who knows where at this moment.

So how does it work. First you will need to register. This can be done at any time until shortly before the event itself. Easiest way to do this is to go to the *Africa Health* website and click on the webinar link and follow instructions. You will then receive an email with detailed joining instructions.

Then maybe 10 minutes before the start time of the Webinar… will be time to join up. Because of band width limitations we will not have live streaming of images and instead will restrict the transmission to audio,

and PowerPoint slides. But the platform is dynamic, meaning that all participants can see who else is participating (and where from), and participants can send questions in at any time which will be sifted by a panel of experts, and those that are selected will be formally raised for further discussion.

What you will see (we hope!) is as per the Webinar page below:

In the big box you will see the lecture slides; and then down the right-hand side is the clever stuff: top box you will see first the speakers and panelists; and then all the attendees who are logged on at any one moment.

The next box is labelled 'chat' but is apparently only for use by the moderators (otherwise apparently there is a danger that participants stop listening to the lecture and start conversations amongst themselves!); and then the bottom box labelled 'Q&A' is where attendees can at any time send questions to the panel. Some of these will be put to the speakers, others may well be answered via the same box.

It all adds up to a highly interesting opportunity. I hope you'll join us. **Bryan Pearson**