



## **HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2012**

### **Membership**

As of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012 the Society has a total active membership of 1,070, up from last August, when it was 1,040. Since September 2011, 55 new members have been elected. Eleven of these are people who made unsuccessful free place applications and were offered free membership for 2012-13. Two were rejoining the Society. Of the 27 members who left the Society, two died, nine retired, five changed their field of work, one was ill and one went abroad.

145 members have not paid their 2012 subscription yet and whose membership status is therefore in doubt. They will be chased when we move to direct debits shortly, so it is likely that next year's official membership will be lower (though not the number who have paid their fees). Once again, I should like to mention the tremendous work that our membership secretary Julia Goodwin does in maintaining our membership records, among other tasks.

Valid email addresses are held for 93% of members (all but 76 members). As communication is now solely conducted electronically, members are urged to ensure that they notify of us any change in their contact details, particularly if their email address changes.

This occasion should not pass without mentioning three of our honorary members. Professor James Last was awarded the very prestigious Order of Canada in July, and Professor Peter Elwood was awarded the OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. On a sadder note, I regret to inform the members that Professor Richard Madeley died suddenly this spring. I had seen him a few months previously, when he told me how much he was enjoying being retired and having the time to go to a wide range of lectures and other activities.

### **Annual Scientific Meeting 2011**

The 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting was held at the University of Warwick in September 2011. On behalf of the Society I should like to thank Aileen Clarke, Neil Raymond, Margaret Thorogood, Karen Rees, and the rest of the local organising team for all their work in putting on a very successful and enjoyable meeting. The scientific programme was of the usual high quality, as were the opportunities for networking. The Early Career Researchers' Sub-committee were also active, providing a number of additions to the ASM that look set to become regular fixtures.

### **Annual Scientific Meeting 2012**

A record number of abstracts were submitted for this year's meeting at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, organised jointly with UCL, in addition to workshop proposals. Of the 359 submitted abstracts, 99 were selected for oral presentation (three of which were chosen for the plenary session) and a further 60 were chosen for poster presentation. Papers were scored by the SSM and local committee members, and oral and poster presentations were chosen from the highest scoring abstracts. We should congratulate those who were selected to give an oral or poster presentation but I should also like to say to those who were not successful this year that they should not be discouraged: it was an unusual year and there was simply not enough room, or time, for many deserving abstracts. I should like to thank the reviewers for their time in marking the abstracts, and Mark Gilthorpe and Mark Kelly for calibrating the scores. They are writing a paper about this, so that future committees - and members of the Society - will understand how this is done.

Last year, a number of presenters notified the organisers that they were unable to attend too late to for the programme to be re-organised or additional authors to be invited to give oral presentations. This year, we introduced registration deadlines for presenters to avoid this problem, but not all presenters were able to confirm their funding, and therefore register, within that time. This will be reviewed for next year.



The Society's long relationship with the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health continues. The SSM Committee decided that the abstracts of the poster as well as the oral presentations should be published in a JECH supplement. This will be available online to anyone who has online access to JECH, with printed copies available to individual subscribers and to those attending this conference.

The two invited speakers this year are Peter Whincup (Pemberton lecture) and Sue Ziebland (Cochrane lecture). Many thanks go to Nick Mays, Christine Rivett-Carnac, the rest of the local organising committee, and HG3 for all their effort and hard work in arranging this year's meeting. HG3, a commercial conference planning organisation, have again eased the workload for SSM and ASM committee members.

## **Other Business**

### ***Website and Archive***

I should like to thank Charles Florey, the Society's webmaster, for his work over very many years in setting up and running the Society's website and continuing to update both the content and the media used, for example through the RSS feed, Facebook, and Twitter. The Society's archive is available via the SSM website (with the appropriate reference code). I should also like to welcome Michael Heasman, who is taking over as web master, and Mark Kelly, whom your committee has appointed as our first Communications Officer. The SSM website now includes a page about each of our eponymous lectures; I should like to thank Peter Elwood for writing about Archie Cochrane for us.

The work and contribution of a number of the Society's members have been recognised this year by prestigious awards and honours. Where we are aware of these, we are bringing them to members' attention through the newsletter.

### ***Decennial members' survey***

This summer, we conducted a survey of SSM members. First results were reported by Martin White in the August newsletter; they will be discussed later in the AGM.

### ***Future Meetings***

Next year's **ASM** will be held in Brighton, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The following year, the meeting will be held in Oxford, 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

Although no **one-day** meetings have been held in the past year, a number are currently being planned. Further details of these will be circulated.

## **The Committee**

The members of the committee for 2012 are:

- Martin White (Chair)
- Margaret Thorogood (Past Chair)
- Simon Capewell (Chair Elect)
- Mark Gilthorpe (Honorary Treasurer and JECH Editorial Board Rep)
- Jennifer Mindell (Honorary Secretary and JECH Editorial Board Rep)
- Elizabeth Breeze
- Noriko Cable
- Jo Coster (Early career researcher representative)
- Mark Kelly
- Dermott O'Reilly
- Bernd Rechel



Karen Rees  
Peter Tennant (Early career researcher representative)  
David Batty Co-opted: (IEA European Federation representative)  
Charles Florey (Co-opted: Website)  
Alastair Leyland (Co-opted: EUPHA representative)  
Nick Mays (Co-opted: ASM Member)

### **Committee Changes**

At the end of the year, Margaret Thorogood (Past Chair), Elizabeth Breeze (Ordinary Member), Peter Tennant (ECR representative) and Nick Mays (Chair of the ASM Organising Committee), will have completed their terms on the committee. On behalf of the Society I should like to thank them all for the valuable contribution that they have made to the Society over the last few years. Mark Kelly will also complete his term as an Ordinary member of the committee but has agreed to stay on as a co-opted member, continuing his other role of Communications Officer both on the main committee and chairing the Communications sub-committee.

I will announce the new Committee members for 2013 onwards under item 10 on this Agenda.

### **Thanks**

I should like to thank Julia Goodwin for her work as Membership Secretary and Alison Moody and Barbara Carter-Szatynska for supporting me this year. Noriko Cable, Elizabeth Breeze and Catherine Heffernan have continued to do a wonderful job producing regular issues of our newsletter. This is my third and final annual report to members. I should like to thank Martin White and all the current committee members for their help and support this year, and to their predecessors for all their help and support earlier in my term of office. I recommend becoming involved with the Society and standing for the committee and I look forward to seeing the Society evolve over the next decade with your help.

Jennifer Mindell  
13<sup>th</sup> September 2012

### **Agenda item 10. Elections**

*Chair-elect:* Because of the proposed change to the term of office for the SSM Chair, I have not yet called for nominations for the post of Chair-elect. If the constitutional changes are agreed by the membership, Simon Capewell has agreed to serve a second year as Chair-elect and will become SSM Chair on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014. If the constitutional changes are rejected, I will immediately call for nominations for the Chair-elect and Simon Capewell will take over chairing the Society on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 as originally planned.

*Honorary secretary:* There was one nomination for the post of Honorary Secretary, Michaela Benzeval. Her term of office will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 and will run up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

*Ordinary Committee members:* There were four candidates for the two vacancies. Janis Baird and Sheena Ramsay were elected. Their term of office will be 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

*Honorary Members:* Your committee decided to review the way individuals are suggested for honorary membership, which is offered by the Society to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the Society and/or to social medicine. No individuals have been invited this year, pending the introduction of a more systematic way to identify suitable individuals.