

# SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL MEDICINE

## MINUTES FROM THE 49TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL MEDICINE, HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2005 AT 17:00 HRS

25 people attended the meeting and it was chaired by Sally Macintyre.

1. *Minutes of the 48th AGM held in Birmingham*

The minutes were agreed.

2. *Any matters arising not specified below*

No matters arising were identified.

3. *The Honorary Secretary's Report*

The report is attached. This included details of the current membership, the submission of abstracts for this years meeting, other meetings that have taken place during the past year and changes to the committee.

4. *The Honorary Treasurer's Report*

The Society's finances were read, checked and reported as healthy with no problems. The accounts were agreed. The issue of the current surplus was raised and it was explained that this is being used to increase the support to the society, for example to increase the administrative support available to the secretary and treasurer. It was also mentioned that there are a considerable number of ex-members still paying through their standing order. The treasurer is to write to all of these to ask them to cancel the standing order.

5. *Report on EUPHA*

Carol Orchard reported that details of last years meeting were included in the SSM newsletter and that she will be attending the meeting this years meeting on the society's behalf. It was stated that the finances have now settled down after some problems last year. Members were again asked to send their email addresses to the society in order to receive the electronic version of the European Journal of Public Health. It was also announced that Alistair Leyland has been elected as the SSM representative on the EJPH board.

6. *Report on IEA European Federation of Epidemiological Societies*

Robert West raised the issue of European funding for research. The chair of IEA Europe recently suggested that all national societies write to their MEPs to lobby for improved European funding for epidemiological and public health research in the coming funding round. As SSM has recently responded to the UK Clinical Research Collaboration Public Health Research Consultation document (see item 9a) and as SSM policy is not to get involved in politics generally, it was decided this would be the society's response.

There is no European IEA meeting this year due to the international meeting taking place. The next European meeting will be held in June 2006. Raj Bhopal mentioned that Edinburgh have bid to hold the World Congress of Epidemiology meeting in 2011.

7. *Election of Chair-Elect, two Ordinary Members of the Committee and Honorary Members of the Society*

Robert West was agreed as Chair-Elect. Kate Dunn and Stephanie Taylor were elected on to the committee following the membership ballot. It was also discussed that it would be useful to have more committee members to help with tasks such as abstract marking, and so the nominee with the next highest number of votes would be co-opted on to the committee. However, there was a tie for third position with Steve Cummins and Cindy Cooper receiving the same number of votes. These will both be invited to join the committee as co-opted members for one year. The situation will be reviewed after this period. John Fox and Karen Dunnell were elected as honorary members.

8. *Future scientific meetings*

- a. ASM 2006 - Leeds
- b. ASM 2007 - Cork
- c. ASM 2008 - Southampton
- d. ASM 2009 - Newcastle?

Newcastle originally made a bid for 2010 but have been asked if they could bring it forward to 2009.

9. *Any other business:*

- a. On behalf of the society the committee put together a response to the UK Clinical Research Collaboration Public Health Research Consultation to make recommendations on the future of public health research. There was only a short time in which to respond and so it was not opened up to the society as a whole. The full response will be made available on the SSM website.
- b. The society has also been asked for a response to the Best Research for Best Health consultation document. It was decided that a link to the document would be made available on the website and anyone wishing to contribute should contact the chair, secretary or treasurer before the closing date of 21<sup>st</sup> October.
- c. The final draft of the abstract assessment guidelines was discussed. The committee decided to produce these and put them on the website to make it clearer to people how abstracts are selected. These were published in the newsletter in May and comments invited. It was suggested that there is a need to clarify the guidelines with regard to submitting/presenting more than one paper.
- d. The creation of sections within the society was discussed. It was reported that there have been no proposals submitted as yet to create a section.