

Society for Social Medicine

MINUTES OF THE 51ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL MEDICINE HELD AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK ON WEDNESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 17:15 HRS

24 people attended the meeting and it was chaired by Robert West.

1. Minutes of the 50th AGM held in Leeds

The minutes were agreed as correct.

2. Any matters arising in the minutes not specified below

No matters arising were identified.

3. Honorary Secretary's Report

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

4. Honorary Treasurer's Report

The Society's finances were read, checked and reported as healthy. There is a surplus in the accounts and it was decided that one way to use this would be to offer all honorary members (not just those that have retired) a free place at the ASM each year. This will be advertised in the newsletter.

5. Report on EUPHA

Alastair Leyland reported that at last year's conference in Montreux, there were over 1300 participants from more than 60 countries. There were 11 parallel sessions and over 250 posters being presented. This year's conference in Helsinki is in October and the main theme of the conference is "The Future of Public Health in the Unified Europe". The 2008 conference will be held in Lisbon, 2009 in Warsaw.

The number of sections in EUPHA has expanded; a further 5 sections covering mental health, environment related diseases, injury prevention and safety promotion, public health economics and chronic diseases have been added. Other proposed structural changes include the divorcing of the EUPHA presidency from the organization of the annual conference and a restructuring of the committees in EUPHA.

6. Report on IEA European Federation of Epidemiological Societies

- a) Registration as a NGO – Robert West reported that this will be reviewed as time progresses. There is some debate over whether it is useful. It was agreed that the committee can decide whether to withdraw from this arrangement on behalf of the society.
- b) A Richard Doll prize is to be presented in Edinburgh in 2011. SSM should start to think about nominations.
- c) The next IEA meeting will be Brazil in 2008 and the next IEA Europe meeting will be in Poland in 2009.

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

Nick Mays was agreed as Chair-Elect. Steve Cummins and Ivan Perry were elected on to the committee. Michael Goldacre, Richard Madeley, Mike Wadsworth and Robert West were elected as honorary members.

Leaving the committee this year are Roger Harrison, Laurence Moore and Ian Harvey. Special thanks were given to Ian Harvey as he has been on the committee for many years, serving as Treasurer and then as Chair.

8. The John Pemberton Lecture

The committee proposed the introduction of a lecture to coincide with the 50th year of the society and to honour the contribution made to both SSM and IEA by John Pemberton. This could be held each year or could be alternated with the Cochrane lecture. After some discussion, the most popular idea was that of having two shorter lectures each year, with the John Pemberton focused more on epidemiology and the Cochrane lecture focused more of HSR/public health. The option of alternating the lectures could be considered if good speakers could not be found.

9. Future scientific meetings

The venues for future ASMs are as follows:

- a) ASM 2008 – Southampton (17-19th Sept)
- b) ASM 2009 – Newcastle (9-11th Sept)
- c) ASM 2010 – Belfast (date not yet confirmed)
- d) ASM 2011 - ???

There is also a one-day meeting planned to take place on 30th October 2007 in London. The title of the meeting is “Pathways to obesity: methods and measurements”.

10. Any other business

No other business was raised.