

## **HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST AUGUST 2005**

### **Membership**

The Society now (as of 31st August) has a total active membership of 1,079 with 24 new ordinary members being elected this year. Professor John Fox and Karen Dunnell have been put forward for Honorary Membership of the Society and would be honoured to accept.

### **Annual Scientific Meeting 2004**

The 48th Annual Scientific Meeting was held at the University of Birmingham in September 2004. On behalf of the Society I would like to thank Richard Wilson and Carol Richards and the rest of the local organising team for their considerable efforts in putting on a very successful and enjoyable meeting. The meeting and the scientific programme were of the usual high quality and feedback from delegates was extremely positive.

### **This year's Annual Scientific Meeting**

A total of 236 abstracts were submitted for consideration for presentation at this year's scientific meeting. There will be 96 oral presentations (six of which are in the two plenary sessions) and 60 posters at the meeting here in Glasgow. Papers were scored by committee members and oral presentations and poster presentations were chosen from the highest scoring abstracts. Professor John Fox is this year's Cochrane Lecturer, this year's only invited speaker. The ASM has been approved for CME/CPD points by the Faculty of Public Health.

Many thanks go to Lisa Williamson, Sally Macintyre and the rest of the local organising committee at Glasgow for all their hard work.

### **Other business**

#### ***Website and archive***

Through Charles Florey, the website continues to develop and a redesigned site will go live after the AGM. Charles Florey and Aileen Clarke have also spent considerable time sorting out material for archiving at the Wellcome Institute.

#### ***One-day meetings***

Each committee member is encouraged to organise at least one one-day meeting during their term of office. A meeting titled "Dahlgren, Whitehead and beyond" took place on 21<sup>st</sup> April at Cardiff University, organised by Lawrence Moore. A meeting on "Genes, populations & disease: genomic, proteomic and metabonomic approaches in epidemiology" was held at the University of Leeds on 17<sup>th</sup> May. This was a joint meeting with the UK Molecular Epidemiology Group, with the SSM part of the meeting being organised by Mark Gilthorpe. Both of these meetings were a great success. Many thanks to the organisers of these meetings.

#### ***Future meetings***

Next year's ASM will be held in Leeds, between the 13th and 15th of September. In 2007 the meeting will be held in Cork, in 2008 it will be in Southampton and in 2009 it will be held in London.

A one-day meeting is being held in Manchester on November 23rd. The title of this is "Measuring risks and benefits for population health: an introduction to population impact measures".

## **The Committee**

The current members of the Committee for 2005 are:

Sally McIntyre (Chair)  
Margaret Whitehead (Past Chair)  
Ian Harvey (Chair Elect)  
Aileen Clarke (Honorary Treasurer and JECH editorial board rep.)  
Amy Downing (Honorary Secretary and JECH editorial board rep)  
Shah Ebrahim  
Mark Gilthorpe  
Roger Harrison  
Gillian Leng  
Lawrence Moore  
Alicia O’Cathain  
Joy Townsend  
Charles Florey (Co-opted: Website)  
Carol Orchard (Co-opted: EUPHA representative)  
Robert West (Co-opted: IEA European Federation representative)

### ***Committee Changes***

In January 2005 Aileen Clarke became Treasurer for the society and I took on the role of Honorary Secretary. At the end of the year Margaret Whitehead (Past Chair), Shah Ebrahim Gillian Leng and Alicia O’Cathain (Ordinary Members) will have completed their terms as elected members of the Committee. On behalf of the Society I would like to thank them all for the hard work and the valuable contribution that they have made to the success of the Society over the last few years. Special thanks to Alicia O’Cathain for putting together the newsletter.

After a ballot of the membership, we will be welcoming two new members to the committee from January 2006 – they are Kate Dunn and Stephanie Taylor. I am also delighted to report that Robert West has been nominated as Chair Elect during 2006 - his term as Chair will be in 2007.

### ***Correspondence and committee business***

In addition to the organisation of scientific meetings, and the organisation of the society, the following topics have been discussed by the committee through the year:

- The creation of formal abstract assessment guidelines
- Electronic voting for membership ballots
- The nomination of a UK representative for the EJPH advisory panel
- A response to the UK Clinical Research Collaboration Public Health Research Consultation

### **Thanks**

I would like to thank Jenny Stanley, the membership secretary, for her efficient management of the database and Sarah Skinner who has provided me with secretarial support. I would also like to thank all the committee members for their help and support during my first year as secretary to the society. I look forward to our ongoing success as a society.

Amy Downing  
September 2005