

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST AUGUST 2006

Membership

The Society now (as of 31st August) has a total active membership of 1,248. In 2005 there were 27 new ordinary members elected and so far in 2006 there have been 40 elected. Professors Stephen Frankel, Alison McFarlane and Elizabeth Russell have been put forward for Honorary Membership of the Society and would be honoured to accept.

Annual Scientific Meeting 2005

The 49th Annual Scientific Meeting was held at the University of Glasgow in September 2005. On behalf of the Society I would like to thank Sally Macintyre, Lisa Williamson 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 very positive.

This year's Annual Scientific Meeting

A total of 249 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 Leeds. Papers were scored by committee members and oral presentations and poster presentations were chosen from the highest scoring abstracts. Professor Martin McKee is this year's Cochrane Lecturer. The ASM has been approved for CME/CPD points by the Faculty of Public Health.

As this year is the 50th anniversary of the Society, all honorary members were invited to attend the ASM at no cost. We also have Professor Alwyn Smith, a founder member of the Society, speaking at the Civic Reception.

Many thanks go to Sarah Skinner, Mark Gilthorpe and the rest of the local organising committee at Leeds for all their hard work.

Other business

Website and archive

Through Charles Florey, the website continues to develop and the redesigned site has been a great success. Our archive material is now with Wellcome and being processed.

One-day meetings

Each committee member is encouraged to organise at least one one-day meeting during their term of office. One meeting took place this year, titled "Measuring risks and benefits for population health: an introduction to population impact measures". Many thanks to Roger Harrison for organising this meeting.

Future meetings

Next year's ASM will be held in Cork, between the 12th and 14th of September. This will be a joint meeting with IEA Europe. In 2008 the meeting will be held in Southampton and the 2009 meeting will now be in Newcastle.

A one-day meeting is being held in London on 8th November. The title of this is "Improving the use of ethnicity in analytical research".

The Committee

The current members of the Committee for 2006 are:

Ian Harvey (Chair)
Sally McIntyre (Past Chair)
Robert West (Chair Elect & IEA European Federation representative)
Aileen Clarke (Honorary Treasurer and JECH editorial board rep)
Amy Downing (Honorary Secretary and JECH editorial board rep)
Kate Dunn
Mark Gilthorpe
Roger Harrison
Lawrence Moore
Stephanie Taylor
Joy Townsend
Cindy Cooper (Co-opted: Ordinary Committee Member)
Steve Cummins (Co-opted: Ordinary Committee Member)
Charles Florey (Co-opted: Website)
Alastair Leyland (Co-opted: EUPHA representative)

Committee Changes

At the end of the year Sally Macintyre (Past Chair), Mark Gilthorpe and Joy Townsend (Ordinary Members) and Cindy Cooper and Steve Cummins (Co-opted committee members for one year) will have completed their terms as 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.

From January 2007 we will be welcoming back two committee members – Cindy Cooper, who will become a full committee member, and Mark Gilthorpe, who wishes to serve another term. Both will be on the committee for three years. Steve Cummins will be co-opted for a further year. I am also delighted to report that Diana Kuh has been nominated as Chair Elect during 2007 - her term as Chair will be in 2008.

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:

- Online conference registration and abstract submission
- Electronic communication within the society and the setting up of mailing lists
- Voluntary register for Public Health Specialists

Thanks

I would like to thank Jenny Stanley and her successor Julia Goodwin, for their work as Membership Secretary, and Savitry Khairunnisa and James Thompson who have provided me with secretarial support this year. Thanks go to Laurence Moore for putting together the newsletter. 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 2006