

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST AUGUST 2007

Membership

The Society now (as of 31st August) has a total active membership of 1,076. This is slightly down on last year as a lot of work has been done on the membership database and on removing members who have not paid their fees for several years. This year, there have been 30 new members elected. Professors Michael Goldacre, Richard Madeley, Mike Wadsworth and Robert West have been put forward for Honorary Membership of the Society and would be honoured to accept.

Annual Scientific Meeting 2006

The 50th Annual Scientific Meeting was held at the University of Leeds in September 2006. On behalf of the Society I would like to thank Professor Mark Gilthorpe, Sarah Skinner 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 the 50th birthday celebrations were enjoyed by all.

This year's Annual Scientific Meeting

This year's meeting is being held jointly with IEA Europe at University College Cork, Ireland. A total of 474 abstracts were submitted for consideration and of these, 147 were selected for oral presentation and a further 60 were chosen for poster presentation. Papers were scored by both SSM and IEA committee members, and oral and poster presentations were chosen from the highest scoring abstracts. There are no plenary presentations this year, but the 15 top scoring abstracts have been highlighted in the timetable. There are two invited speakers; Professor Trevor Sheldon (Cochrane Lecture) and Professor Jørn Olsen (IEA John Pemberton Lecture). The ASM has been approved for CME/CPD points by the Faculty of Public Health.

Many thanks go to Karen Mulcahy, Ivan Perry and the rest of the local organising committee in Cork for all their hard work.

Other business

Website and archive

Through Charles Florey, the website continues to develop and is a well-used resource. The Society's archive material is now held with Wellcome and this will be added to over time.

One-day meetings

Each committee member is encouraged to organise at least one one-day meeting during their term of office. Two meetings took place this year; "Improving the use of ethnicity in analytical research" and "Researching Symptoms: Past, Present and Future". Many thanks to Joy Townsend and Kate Dunn for organising these meetings.

Future meetings

Next years ASM will be held in Southampton, 17th-19th September 2008. The following year the meeting will be held in Newcastle, 9th-11th September 2009.

A one-day meeting on "Pathways to obesity: methods and measurements" will be held in London on 30th October 2007.

The Committee

The members of the committee for 2007 are:

Robert West (Chair & IEA European Federation Representative)
Diana Kuh (Chair Elect)
Ian Harvey (Past Chair)
Aileen Clarke (Honorary Treasurer and JECH Editorial Board Rep)
Amy Downing (Honorary Secretary and JECH Editorial Board Rep)
Cindy Cooper
Kate Dunn
Mark Gilthorpe
Roger Harrison
Laurence Moore
Stephanie Taylor
Steve Cummins (Co-opted: Ordinary Committee Member)
Charles Florey (Co-opted: Website)
Alastair Leyland (Co-opted: EUPHA Representative)
Ivan Perry (Co-opted: ASM Member)

Committee changes

At the end of the year Ian Harvey (Past Chair), Roger Harrison and Laurence Moore (Ordinary Members) and Steve Cummins and Ivan Perry (Co-opted Members) will have completed their terms on 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 Society over the last few years.

From January 2008 we will be welcoming back two previously co-opted members, Steven Cummins and Ivan Perry, who will become full committee members. Both will be on the committee for three years. In addition, a member of the 2008 local organising committee at Southampton will be co-opted for one year. I am also delighted to report that Nick Mays has been nominated as Chair Elect during 2008 - his term as Chair will be in 2009.

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:

- Updating of the membership database, including obtaining current email and postal addresses and resolving membership fee payment errors.
- The practicalities of teleconferencing for some committee meetings to reduce travel times and costs.

Thanks

I would like to thank Julia Goodwin for her work as Membership Secretary and Kate Ashcroft for supporting me this year. Thanks go to Laurence Moore for putting together the newsletter for the past few years. I would also like to thank all the committee members for their help and support during the year. I look forward to our ongoing success as a society.

Amy Downing
September 2007