

## **HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST AUGUST 2008**

### **Membership**

As of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008 the Society has a total active membership of 1,105. Work is on-going to check and update all members' details on the database. Email addresses are now held for 91% of members.

This year, 57 new members have been elected (of whom 15 joined with the 2007 conference deal and 7 were offered membership for a year because they failed to get a free student place). No-one has been nominated for Honorary Membership of the Society this year, but four were elected last year, which was a higher number than usual.

### **Annual Scientific Meeting 2007**

The 51st Annual Scientific Meeting was held jointly with the International Epidemiological Association (European Federation) at University College Cork in September 2007. On behalf of the Society I would like to thank Professor Ivan Perry, Karen Mulcahy and the rest of the local organising team for their considerable efforts in putting on a very successful and enjoyable meeting. The scientific programme was of the usual high quality and the meeting was enjoyed by all.

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

This year's meeting is being held in Southampton. A total of 180 abstracts were submitted for consideration and of these, 98 were selected for oral presentation, of which three were chosen for the plenary session, and a further 42 were chosen for poster presentation. Papers were scored by the SSM committee members, and oral and poster presentations were chosen from the highest scoring abstracts. There are two invited speakers; Professor Robert Beaglehole (Cochrane Lecture) and Professor Paul Elliott (Pemberton Lecture).

The Faculty of Public Health no longer approves meetings CME/CPD points, but advises that individuals assess the content of external meetings in relation to their own personal development plan, and if it provides good quality learning, they should write a reflective note and claim CPD credits.

Many thanks go to Carol Orchard, Paul Roderick, Steve George, Hazel Inskip and the rest of the local organising committee in Southampton 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 has now been catalogued by Wellcome and is available via the SSM website (with the appropriate reference code).

#### ***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; "Pathways to obesity: methods and measurements" and "Synthesising Qualitative Research Evidence On Patient's Views & Experiences: Methodological Issues And Utility". Many thanks go to Steve Cummins and Stephanie Taylor for organising these meetings.

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

Next years ASM will be held in Newcastle, 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> September 2009. The following year the meeting will be held in Belfast, 6-8<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

A one-day meeting on "Clinical Trials in Health Services Research and Public Health" will be held in Sheffield in early April 2009.

## **The Committee**

The members of the committee for 2008 are:

Diana Kuh (Chair)  
Nick Mays (Chair Elect)  
Robert West (Past Chair & IEA European Federation Representative)  
Aileen Clarke (Honorary Treasurer and JECH Editorial Board Rep)  
Amy Downing (Honorary Secretary and JECH Editorial Board Rep)  
Cindy Cooper  
Steve Cummins (Newsletter Editor)  
Kate Dunn  
Mark Gilthorpe  
Ivan Perry  
Stephanie Taylor  
Charles Florey (Co-opted: Website)  
Alastair Leyland (Co-opted: EUPHA Representative)  
Carol Orchard (Co-opted: ASM Member)

### ***Committee changes***

At the end of the year Robert West (Past Chair & IEA Rep), Kate Dunn and Stephanie Taylor (Ordinary Members) and Carol Orchard (Co-opted Member) 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 two new members on to the committee, Neil Raymond and David Batty. Both will be on the committee for three years. In addition, a member of the 2009 local organising committee at Newcastle will be co-opted for one year. I am also delighted to report that Martin McKee has been nominated as Chair Elect during 2009 - his term as Chair will be in 2010.

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

In addition to the organisation of scientific meetings, and the general running 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
- Affiliation with the Health Services Research Network
- The need for a replacement IEA Europe representative and possible candidates
- Nomination of a candidate for membership of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics

### **Thanks**

I would like to thank Julia Goodwin for her work as Membership Secretary and Richard Stephenson for supporting me this year. Thanks also go to Steve Cummins for putting together the newsletters this year. Finally, I would 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 2008