

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST AUGUST 2009

Membership

As of 31st August 2009 the Society has a total active membership of 995. We continue to check and update members' details and to chase those who have failed to pay their fees. Valid email addresses are held for approximately 85% of members.

This year, 26 new members have been elected. Professors John Gabbay and Allen Hutchinson have been put forward for Honorary Membership of the Society and would be honoured to accept.

Annual Scientific Meeting 2008

The 52nd Annual Scientific Meeting was held at the University of Southampton in September 2008. On behalf of the Society I would like to thank Professor Paul Roderick, Carol Orchard 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

A total of 321 abstracts were submitted for this year's meeting in Newcastle. Of these, 93 were selected for oral presentation (three of which were chosen for the plenary session) and a further 60 were chosen for poster presentation. Papers were scored by the SSM and local committee members, and oral and poster presentations were chosen from the highest scoring abstracts. Huge thanks go to the reviewers for their time in marking the higher than average number of abstracts.

There are two invited speakers this year; Professor Sally Macintyre (Cochrane Lecture) and Professor Valerie Beral (Pemberton Lecture).

Many thanks go to Martin White, Laura Ritson, Eileen Coope, Jean Adams and the rest of the local organising committee for all their hard work.

Other Business

Membership Survey

Earlier this year we undertook a survey of all SSM members. The results from this survey were discussed at the recent committee meeting and will be available to all members shortly.

Website and Archive

Through Charles Florey, the website continues to develop and is a well-used resource. The Society's archive 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. One meeting took place this year; "Randomised Controlled Trials in Health Services Research and Public Health". Thanks go to Cindy Cooper for organising this meeting. In addition, a pre-ASM satellite meeting was held on Tuesday 7th September in Newcastle on the theme of Intervention-generated Health Inequalities.

Future Meetings

Next year's ASM will be held in Belfast, 6th-8th September 2010. The following year the meeting will be held in Warwick, 14-16th September 2011.

A seminar on Research Governance is being held with the Health Services Research Network on October 30th 2009 and several SSM one-day meetings are planned for 2010. Further details of these will be circulated soon.

The Committee

The members of the committee for 2009 are:

Nick Mays (Chair)
Martin McKee (Chair Elect)
Diana Kuh (Past Chair & IEA European Federation Representative)
Aileen Clarke (Honorary Treasurer and JECH Editorial Board Rep)
Amy Downing (Honorary Secretary and JECH Editorial Board Rep)
David Batty
Cindy Cooper
Steve Cummins (Newsletter Editor)
Mark Gilthorpe
Ivan Perry
Neil Raymond
Charles Florey (Co-opted: Website)
Alastair Leyland (Co-opted: EUPHA Representative)
Robert West (Co-opted: IEA European Federation Representative)
Martin White (Co-opted: ASM Member)

Committee Changes

At the end of the year Diana Kuh (Past Chair), Cindy Cooper and Mark Gilthorpe (Ordinary Members) and Martin White (Co-opted Member) will have completed their terms on the committee. In addition, David Batty will take over as IEA Europe rep from Robert West. On behalf of the Society I would like to thank them all for the valuable contribution that they have made to the Society over the last few years.

From January 2010 we will be welcoming two new members on to the committee, Elizabeth Breeze and Gita Mishra. Both will serve on the committee for three years. In addition, a member of the 2010 local organising committee at Belfast will be co-opted for one year. I am also delighted to report that Margaret Thorogood has been nominated as Chair Elect during 2010 - her term as Chair will be in 2011. In the recent ballot Clare Jinks was elected as the new SSM representative on the EUPHA committee. Huge thanks go to Ellen Nolte for the work she has put into this role over the last five years. Finally, we are in the process of electing a new Honorary Secretary as I shall be stepping down at the end of the year.

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
- Undertaking a membership survey to gain opinion on the current workings of the society
- Affiliations with other societies and organisations

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, past and present, and the membership as a whole for their help and support during the time I have been Honorary Secretary.

Amy Downing
September 2009