



HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST AUGUST 2010

Membership

As of 31st August 2010 the Society has a total active membership of 1075, up by 80 or from last August, when it was 995. We continue to check and update members' details and to chase those who have failed to pay their fees. 21 memberships were terminated (10 resigned for unspecified reason, 3 resigned due to retirement, 4 deceased, and 4 that we have lost contact with). Valid email addresses are held for 92% of members, i.e. all but 85.

This year, 98 new members have been elected, and 3 lapsed members have rejoined. Angela Coulter and Professors Valerie Beral, Sir Liam Donaldson, and Margaret Whitehead have been put forward for Honorary Membership of the Society and would be honoured to accept.

Sadly, a number of prominent and early members of the society died in the past 12 months, including Donald Acheson, Wilfred Harding, Jerry Morris, and John Pemberton. We heard more about John Pemberton before the lecture given in his name this afternoon but it is appropriate for us to acknowledge the tremendous contribution that each of them made to our speciality.

Annual Scientific Meeting 2009

The 53rd Annual Scientific Meeting was held at the University of Newcastle in September 2009. On behalf of the Society I should like to thank Martin White, Laura Ritson and the rest of the local organising team for all their work 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 203 abstracts were submitted for this year's meeting in Belfast, in addition to workshop proposals. Of these, 83 were selected for oral presentation (three of which were chosen for the plenary session) and a further 70 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. I should like to thank the reviewers for their time in marking the abstracts, and Mark Gilthorpe for calibrating the scores.

There are two invited speakers this year; Professor Mark Petticrew (Cochrane Lecture) and Professor Johann Mackenbach (Pemberton Lecture).

Many thanks go to Dermott O'Reilly, Gillian Luke, and the rest of the local organising committee for all their effort and hard work in arranging this year's Meeting.

Other Business

Website and Archive

I should like to thank Charles Florey, the Society's webmaster, for his continuing work ensuring that the website continues to develop as 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. A seminar on Research Governance was held with the Health Services Research Network on October 30th 2009 .

Future Meetings

Next year's ASM will be held in Warwick, Wednesday 14th to Friday 16th September 2011. The following year the meeting will be held in London, 12th-14th September 2012.

Several SSM one-day meetings are planned for 2011. Further details of these will be circulated.



The Committee

The members of the committee for 2010 are:

Martin McKee (Chair)
Nick Mays (Past Chair)
Margaret Thorogood (Chair Elect)
Aileen Clarke (Honorary Treasurer and JECH Editorial Board Rep)
Jennifer Mindell (Honorary Secretary and JECH Editorial Board Rep)
David Batty (IEA European Federation representative)
Elizabeth Breeze
Joanne Coster (to May 2010; Early career researcher representative)
Steve Cummins
Gita Mishra
Anna Pearce (from May 2010; Early career researcher representative)
Ivan Perry
Neil Raymond
Charles Florey (Co-opted: Website)
Alastair Leyland (Co-opted: EUPHA representative)
Dermott O'Reilly (Co-opted: ASM Member)

Committee Changes

At the end of the year Nick Mays (Past Chair), Steve Cummins and Ivan Perry (Ordinary Members), and Dermott O'Reilly (Co-opted Member) will have completed their terms on the committee. On behalf of the Society I should like to thank them all for the valuable contribution that they have made to the Society over the last few years, particularly Steve for his work as Newsletter editor.

For those considering standing for the committee in future years, it must be a good advertisement that Dermott O'Reilly, having finished his term as co-opted member, has stood for ordinary membership of the committee. We also welcome Bernd Rechel as the other 'Ordinary Members' for three years from January 2011.

I am delighted that Mark Gilthorpe has been nominated to be the new honorary Treasurer from January 2011, after Aileen Clarke steps down. I am also pleased to report that [REDACTED] has been nominated as Chair Elect during 2011 – [her/his](#) term as Chair will be in 2012.

Thanks

I should like to thank Noriko Cable and Catherine Heffernan for volunteering to take over the newsletter; Julia Goodwin for her work as Membership Secretary; and Maria Aresu, Barbara Carter-Szatynska, Elsa Delgado Angulo, and Dorina Cadar for supporting me this year. I should also like to thank Martin McKee and all the current committee members, as well as Amy Downing and Mark Gilthorpe, for their help and support this year while I've been 'learning the ropes'. In particular, I'd like to thank Aileen Clarke for her unfailing helpfulness and support and for being a mine of information on how the Society runs. Finally, on behalf of the membership, I'd like to thank Aileen for the tremendous job she has done of being the Society's Honorary Treasurer for six years. She isn't escaping totally, however, as she is chairing the 2011 local organising committee at Warwick, so she will be co-opted onto the committee for the next year.

Jennifer Mindell
6th September 2010