



HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST AUGUST 2011

Membership

As of 31st August 2011 the Society has a total active membership of 1,040, down from last August, when it was 1,075, but that figure was inflated by a number of people who joined the Society as part of their 2009 ASM registration but never completed the standing order mandate and have declined to do so subsequently. Since September 2010, 58 new members have been elected. Carol Orchard has been put forward for Honorary Membership of the Society and would be honoured to accept.

We have continued to check and update members' details and to chase those who have failed to pay their fees: 85 memberships were terminated, including two who died, giving a net loss of 'real' members of 27. There are a further 98 people on the membership database whose status is in doubt because they have not yet paid their 2011 subscription but in most cases we do not have current contact details for them. We are therefore expecting the membership numbers to be lower next year as we complete our work ensuring the membership database is as accurate and up-to-date as possible. I should like to mention here all the work that our membership secretary Julia Goodwin does in maintaining our membership records, among other tasks.

Valid email addresses are held for 93% of members. As communication is virtually all electronic, members are urged to ensure that they notify of us any change in their contact details, particularly if their email address changes.

Annual Scientific Meeting 2010

The 54th Annual Scientific Meeting was held at the University of Belfast in September 2010. On behalf of the Society I should like to thank Dermott O'Reilly, Sheelah Connolly 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, as were the opportunities for networking. The Early Career Researchers' Sub-committee were also active, providing a number of additions to the ASM that look set to become regular fixtures.

Annual Scientific Meeting 2011

A total of 182 abstracts were submitted for this year's meeting at the University of Warwick, in addition to workshop proposals. Of these, 88 were selected for oral presentation (three of which were chosen for the plenary session) and a further 76 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.

Unfortunately, a number of presenters have been unable to attend the ASM. We know that funding is tight but a number of presenters left it too late to notify the organisers for the programme to be re-organised or additional authors to be invited to give oral presentations. We will therefore be making changes in 2012, introducing registration deadlines for presenters to avoid this happening in future.

During the year, we negotiated anew with a number of journals and are delighted that we are continuing the long relationship between the SSM and the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health. The abstracts for oral sessions have as usual been produced in a JECH supplement. This will be available online to anyone who has online access to JECH, for example, through their organisation, but to reduce costs, printed copies are available only to individual subscribers and to those attending this conference.

There are two invited speakers this year: Peter Groenewegen (Cochrane lecture) and Debbie Lawlor (Pemberton lecture). Many thanks go to Aileen Clarke, Neil Raymond, the rest of the local organising committee, and HG3 for all their effort and hard work in arranging this year's meeting.



This is the first time the SSM has used a commercial conference planning organisation. HG3 have eased the workload for SSM committee members.

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, for example through the RSS feed, Facebook, and Twitter. The Society's archive is available via the SSM website (with the appropriate reference code).

Future Meetings

Next year's **ASM** will be held in London, Wednesday 12th to Friday 14th September 2012. The following year, the meeting will be held in Brighton, 11th-13th September 2013.

Each committee member is encouraged to organise at least one **one-day meeting** during their term of office. Although none have been held in the past year, a number of SSM one-day meetings are currently being planned to take place in 2012. Further details of these will be circulated.

The Committee

The members of the committee for 2011 are:

- Margaret Thorogood (Chair)
- Martin McKee (Past Chair)
- Martin White (Chair Elect)
- Mark Gilthorpe (Honorary Treasurer and JECH Editorial Board Rep)
- Jennifer Mindell (Honorary Secretary and JECH Editorial Board Rep)
- David Batty (IEA European Federation representative)
- Elizabeth Breeze
- Anna Goodman (from August 2011; Early career researcher representative)
- Dermott O'Reilly
- Anna Pearce (to July 2011; Early career researcher representative)
- Neil Raymond
- Bernd Rechel
- Charles Florey (Co-opted: Website)
- Alastair Leyland (Co-opted: EUPHA representative)
- Aileen Clarke (Co-opted: ASM Member)

Committee Changes

At the end of the year, Martin McKee (Past Chair), Neil Raymond (Ordinary Member), and Aileen Clarke (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. David Batty will also complete his term of three years as an Ordinary member of the committee but has agreed to stay on as a co-opted member, continuing his other role of representing the IEA European Epidemiology Federation.

I am pleased to report that Simon Capewell has been nominated as Chair Elect for 2012; his term as Chair will be in 2013. However, I cannot yet announce the new committee members - two Ordinary members of the SSM Committee and two members of the ECR committee - as we initially had no valid nominations. I therefore reissued the call for nominations, which was so successful we will be having a ballot. There are three candidates for the main committee and six for the ECR committee. I will be sending out the ballot forms in October and will notify the membership of the results in the November monthly email.



Thanks

I should like to thank Julia Goodwin for her work as Membership Secretary; Maria Aresu and Barbara Carter-Szatynska for supporting me this year; and Noriko Cable and Catherine Heffernan for volunteering to take over the newsletter. They, together with Elizabeth Breeze, have done a wonderful job in creating a new-look newsletter that is widely read and appreciated. I should also like to thank Margaret Thorogood and all the current committee members for their help and support this year

Jennifer Mindell
14th September 2011