



Minutes of the 58th Annual General Meeting

Keble College, Thursday 11th September, 2014

Chair: Simon Capewell, Minutes HG3 Conferences

49 members were present (see ledger for list)

1. Apologies of attendance

Apologies were received from David Batty, Noriko Cable, Kathryn Oliver, and Emily Murray.

2. Welcome (SC)

Simon Capewell welcomed members to the meeting and thanked everyone for their hard work and invited the membership to volunteer to be involved with the Committee who would introduce themselves during the meeting and talk about the roles they do.

3. Minutes of the 57th AGM held in Brighton were approved

4. Matters arising – none

5. Honorary Secretary's Report (MB)

Michaela Benzeval introduced the Honorary Secretary's Report.

(a) Committee Roles

Members of the Committee introduced themselves to the members at the meeting and spoke briefly about their role on the Committee and the work they undertook.

The Committee, 2014

Simon Capewell	President; ECR champion
Martin White	Past President; external relations lead
Michaela Benzeval	Honorary Secretary; committee and constitution lead
Mark Gilthorpe	Honorary Treasurer; finance and membership lead
Janis Baird	Training co-ordinator
Noriko Cable	One day meeting co-ordinator
Karen Rees	Mentor scheme co-ordinator

Sheena Ramsay	External relations; SSM representative FPHM ARC
Shelina Visram	Membership secretary
Kate Tilling	ASM abstract moderator
Mark Kelson (co-opted)	Communications Officer; SSM representative UK Health Forum
Rebecca Johnson (co-opted)	Newsletter Editor
Emily Murray (co-opted)	Social Media co-ordinator
Ellen Flint (co-opted)	ASM liaison officer
Kathryn Oliver (ECR representative)	ECR Chair
Dorina Cadar (ECR representative)	ECR Chair elect
David Batty (co-opted)	SSM-IEA EEF link representative (stepped down September)
Alastair Leyland (co-opted)	SSM-EUPHA link representative
Ben Cairns (co-opted)	Chair ASM 2014 local organising committee
Cecily Kelleher (co-opted)	Chair ASM 2015 local organising committee
Steven Oliver (co-opted)	Chair ASM 2016 local organising committee (Joined September)

(b) Constitutional Changes (MB)

It was put to the meeting that the Society would like to make the following constitutional changes:

- (i) Increase the number of ordinary members on the committee from 6 to 9
- (ii) Make the role of Communications Officer an Executive Office and extend the term to 5 years to be consistent with the honorary treasurer and secretary
- (iii) To include the role of co-opted committee members in the constitution – the number of co-opted members should not exceed the number of elected officers; and ordinarily they should serve a similar term as ordinary members unless the role requires differently (eg ASM organisers generally are on the committee for 2 years)

A decision was not asked for at the meeting but this would be balloted at a later date.

6. Nominations and Elections (MB)

The results of the nomination and election were announced. More members had voted than ever before, which committee felt was very positive sign of engagement with the Society.

- (a) President Elect – this was announced to be Aileen Clarke
- (b) Ordinary Members – were Ruth Dundas from Glasgow and Tony Robertson from Edinburgh
- (c) Treasurer Elect – this was announced to be Peter Tennant
- (d) EUPHA Scientific Committee – was announced to be Helen Bromley

7. Honorary Treasurer's Report (MG)

Mark Gilthorpe introduced the Honorary Treasurer's Report.

(a) Membership

MG reported that with the increase in membership fee this has resulted in the loss of a few members but the good news was that we actually had received 79 new members this year.

To allow the Committee to engage much more effectively with members, and members with each other, there will be some updates to the membership form, for example, including job roles, and we are introducing a classification of the ECR status. The membership database with new fields added, and the associated members area part of the website, will be relaunched in January 2015.

(b) MG reported that the Society had funds of £103k despite reporting a small loss for this year. He welcomed Peter Tennant to the Committee to shadow him as Honorary Treasurer in 2015.

MG asked if the accounts could be approved and he confirmed that he would make the minor amendments to these before final submission ie include Rebecca Johnson and also amend the date.

MW proposed the accounts were approved and AC seconded the approval of the accounts.

In response to a question about the why the Society kept such a large bank balance. MG responded by saying that in the past the Society needed to have sufficient funds to cover the potential loss of an ASM meeting, but moving forward insurance was now in place so this would not be the case. These funds would be invested into new initiatives for the SSM Committee to decide upon.

In response to the question about the administration support, MG reported that this was less than it used to be but it was partly high this year due to start up costs of new membership system and that the year-on-year increase looked particularly high as MB had not had any support in the preceding year.

8. Communications Officer's Report (MK)

Mark Kelson reported that they now had a new logo for SSM and the strap line was "Advancing Knowledge in Population Health".

MK would be producing some visual identity for the logo and he felt that the production of the Newsletter was fantastic, although he did admit he had no involvement in this.

External support had been secured for the website and this would be developed over the coming months with conference slides, more pictures, also potentially videos and developing advertising materials. If anyone had an issue with their picture being on the website then they were asked to contact Mark Kelson.

The SSM handbook was planned to be put on the SSM website once it has been updated to reflect new roles.

8 Early Career Researchers Section Report (DC)

Dorina Cadar introduced the ECR report: there are 6 people on the ECR Committee and they represent their views on to the main SSM Committee. Elections will be held for new committee members towards the end of the year. They confirmed that they felt well supported and had been working on the Welfare Statement which they hope would be published this year.

They had set up a pilot mentoring scheme and had also organised a successful pre-conference meeting which had been attended by 70 delegates at the Richard Doll Building, University of Oxford, the day before the ASM.

They invited members to suggest topics and themes for future meetings and they were looking for 2 new members.

Simon Capewell had been involved in the development of the Welfare Statement and Peter Tennant confirmed his support.

9. Organisational affiliations reports

(a) EUPHA (AL)

Alastair Leyland reported that there was a EUPHA conference taking place in Glasgow on 19 – 22 November, 2014. They had received over 1100 abstracts and they had 750 oral presentations. They were anticipating that this would be the biggest conference yet.

In 2015 this conference would take place in Milan and in 2016 the conference would take place in Vienna.

He informed the meeting that EUPHA had started taking a stance on behalf of members (which includes SSM) on a couple of position statements on Editorial Freedom and WHO Evidence position on E Cigarettes.

(b) UK Health Forum (MK)

Mark Kelson reported that there was on going connection with other organisations.

(c) Faculty of Public Health Academic and Research Committee (SR)

Sheena Ramsay reported that they were providing an academic voice widening the Committee and assisting SSM to become more outward looking.

A discussion ensued as to the best way forward for the Society in connection with joint ventures with other societies. Martin White assured the meeting that the Committee would be working with other associations to promote joint activities rather than be in competition with each other. For example, with the funding hopefully received by PHSRN soon, this would result in a joint meeting with SSM in the future. He also said that there were informal discussions taking place to avoid any clash of dates, for example with PHE and Med Soc, when arranging future meetings. It was discussed that SSM should be kept as a distinctive organisation but work with

other organisations and hope to have joint one day meetings. It was agreed that soundings would be taken in order to try and get the balance right before any decisions were made.

There was a discussion about the focus of SSM itself, from being the 'British Epidemiological society' to engaging more fully with HSR, behavioural sciences, and medical sociology agendas, with different views on this voiced around the meeting about the balance that should be taken. This was linked to issues around abstract scoring for the main conference as it was felt that there was some bias to traditional epi talks, which needed to be addressed. It was also discussed that the SSM abstract scoring process is being reviewed to ensure it is more transparent, and fair across the different kinds of research at SSM.

10 Future Scientific Meetings (MB)

- (a) Dublin 2 – 4 September, 2015 Organised by Cecily Kelleher
- (b) York 14 – 16 September, 2016 Organised by Stephen Oliver

11. Any Other Business

Ivan Perry asked if the membership could vote if they were members of IEA to support Cork's bid to host the IEA World Congress in 2020.

Simon thanked Karen Rees and Martin White for their hard work on the Committee and wished them well in the future.