



**MINUTES: 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL MEDICINE**  
**PX001, Exhibition Centre, University of York**  
**17:00, Thursday 15 September, 2016**

36 Members were present (see ledger for list).

**1. President's welcome and opening remarks [Aileen Clarke]**

Aileen Clarke welcomed members to the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society of Social Medicine.

**2. Minutes of the 59th AGM held in Dublin and matters arising – *Paper 60\_2***

Aileen asked present members if there were any queries or comments about the minutes of the 59<sup>th</sup> AGM. The minutes were agreed by the meeting.

Aileen highlighted action points from the 59<sup>th</sup> AGM. The first action point required members to respond to the members' survey. Aileen reported that the response was good and urged members to respond to an evaluation survey that would be sent after the conclusion of the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Social Medicine.

Aileen addressed the action point; regular circulation of the SSM flyer using Newsletter and monthly emails. Aileen confirmed that there is now a system put in place in order to circulate flyers. Any member attending other conferences can act as an SSM Champion and take along SSM Membership and ASM flyers to distribute at the event. If the Champion makes contact with Tony Robertson, he will arrange to get a supply of flyers to them.

Aileen invited members to share news via email and explained that SSM want to hear about their members via the newsletter.

**Action points:** For members to share their news with SSM  
For members to respond to the ASM evaluation survey

**3. Honorary Secretary's Report [Peter Tennant] – *Paper 60\_3***

Peter Tennant explained that this report could be found on the SSM website for members to read. Peter highlighted that an increasing number of people want high involvement with the Society and therefore there is not enough time for everybody to report word for word their updates. Peter thanked the members of the Committee who are stepping down in December and welcomed them to return in the future. The Committee members he thanked were; Ellen Flint, Simon Capewell, Sheena Ransay, Sara Ronzi, Kate Tilling and Shelina Visram. Emily Murray was later thanked for her involvement (see point 8). He also thanked members of the ECR Sub-Committee who were leaving; Dorina Cadar and Snehal Pinto Pereira.

Peter emphasised that the contribution made by members of SSM to the Society is greatly appreciated. Peter stated it was a delight to introduce the four new honorary life members at the welcome reception for the 60<sup>th</sup> ASM.

Peter stated that the main committee for SSM are planning a strategic review which would reflect the values of SSM and its members. This would be discussed at an away day in January, 2017. Peter informed members of the Society that the planned 'Away day' would be informed by feedback from the Member's survey.

Peter addressed the launch of an online Network Platform which holds the potential to connect members of the Society. Peter stated that the Committee had identified the need for a Network Platform Officer role to be advertised as soon as possible.

Peter stated that SSM had conducted an EU referendum poll which would be discussed later on in the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the SSM.

Peter highlighted that SSM had provided financial support enabling the occurrence of two 1-day workshops. One had taken place in Bristol, another was due to take place in Southampton. This was thanks to a process implemented by Ruth Dundas which enabled external workshops to apply for funding.

#### **4. Honorary Treasurer's Report [Anna Pearce] – Paper 60\_4**

##### **a) Finance**

Anna Pearce noted that the previous Honorary Treasurer, Mark Gilthorpe, had passed on the finances in a healthy state. AP summarised Paper 60\_4 stating the current finances and that an expected loss had been identified.

##### **b) Membership**

Anna reported a small but positive trend of an increased membership. Anna stated that the Society has an account that receives 'Charitable donations' from past members who have not cancelled standing orders. Anna welcomed any questions however none were asked.

Peter asked for a member of the society to second his approval of the accounts. The accounts were seconded by Hazel Inskip.

#### **5. Early Career Researchers Section Report [Sara Ronzi]**

Sara Ronzi reported that 88 people had attended the ECR workshop at the 60<sup>th</sup> ASM of the SSM. She asked for members to get in touch with feedback and any interest in the ECR group.

Lia Demou introduced the new Network Platform. Lia highlighted the ECR gig trail as a way for ECRs to connect and present work at different institutions. Lia noted that the gig trail and network platform can be accessed via the SSM website. Lia asked for members to spread the word about the ECR group and encouraged members to get in touch if they are interested to join the ECR subcommittee.

#### **6. Middle Career Researchers Section Report [Sheena Ramsay]**

Sheena Ramsay noted the formal launch of the MCR group. Sheena Ramsay thanked Simon Capewell and Aileen for encouraging the development of the MCR group. Sheena stated that the SSM aim to provide peer support for MCRs and then in turn, MCRs would be able to provide support for ECRs. Sheena Ramsay expressed her pride that SSM have pioneered this, and encouraged feedback and to spread word of the MCR group. Sheena Ramsay concluded that there is hope that MCRs will link with SCRs in future and that the SSM would put on an event for MCRs in 2017.

## **7. External relations [Aileen]**

### **a) HSRUK memorandum of understanding**

Aileen noted that SSM and HSRUK now have a memorandum of understanding.

Aileen reported that CRN want to support research conducted by members of SSM and encouraged members to visit the CRN exhibitors stand at the 60<sup>th</sup> ASM.

### **b) Report on EUPHA [Alastair Leyland]**

Aileen reported that SSM have ongoing inks with EUPHA and that the EUPHA conference would take place in November, 2016.

### **c) Report from IEA-EEF [Ivan Perry]**

Aileen reported that IEA and EEF want to hold a joint conference with SSM in 2019.

Ivan Perry stated that the IEA world congress would be held in Japan in 2017 and that ECR bursaries are available with more information on the SSM website.

## **8. Communications Subcommittee Report [Emily Murray] – *Paper 60\_8***

Emily Murray stated that she did not have anything to add to Paper 60\_8. Emily announced that her term as Social Media Co-ordinator was ending and encouraged members to nominate themselves for the role.

## **9. Future scientific meetings [Peter]**

### **a) ASM Manchester, 6-8 September 2017 [Tarani Chandola]**

Tarani Chandola stated that the 61<sup>st</sup> ASM of the SSM would take place in Manchester from 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 with an ECR workshop on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>. Tarani noted that this meeting coincides with the Festival of Public Health and encouraged members to attend the meeting in Manchester.

### **b) ASM 2018**

Peter announced Glasgow as the venue for the 62<sup>nd</sup> ASM of the SSM in 2018.

## **10. Forthcoming committee roles [Peter]**

Peter clarified that the SSM will only be advertising two roles to appoint before January, 2017. This was due to a planned strategic review being conducted in January, 2017, which would investigate current Committee roles and the necessary steps to proceed.

### **a) President-elect**

Peter announced that a new President Elect was needed to start in 2018, but join the committee as President Elect in 2017.

## **b) Other roles**

Peter stated that an Officer for the new Network Platform would be needed.

Peter stated that these roles would be advertised shortly after the 60<sup>th</sup> ASM of the SSM and that members would be invited to nominate themselves or nominate willing members of the society to take on these role.

**Action point:** To elect a new Network Platform Officer and a new President Elect.

## **11. Brexit Statement [Aileen]**

Aileen reported that the Society had conducted a poll of Member's views on Brexit and how the Society should represent these views. Aileen asked members for their thoughts on the process and if this process was a good way for the Society to collect an understanding of their member's views. The Society members agreed that this process was effective and an appropriate way to collect member's views.

Nick Payne applauded the Committee on the process taken in regards to Brexit and the way the Society represented the views of its Members. Nick Payne flagged the connection EUPHA may have with Brexit.

Margaret Eames stated that the vote was helpful and questioned whether or not the Society could use its status to publicise the vote that took place in order to maintain ties with other EU Societies. Aileen responded by saying that after the Brexit referendum, she wrote to the president of EUPHA to share the Society's thoughts on Brexit, and that the society were in support of remain and that they want to continue to have ties with EUPHA.

Hazel Inskip agreed that the Brexit process was successful, and gave members a voice. Hazel questioned what the percentage of poll participation was. Hazel queried whether polls such as these could alienate members with views that are not agreed with by the majority of members, or could be speaking on behalf of people who are not active members of the society. Peter responded by saying that 225 members voted against Brexit, 40 members said that they had no stance, and 10 members were pro Brexit. This is a response rate of 44%.

Jenny Mindell queried whether the society could have a role in collating problems that may arise due to Brexit. Aileen suggested that this could be done on the network platform. Peter suggested that a thread could be made to discuss this.

Ivan Perry asked if SSM would be joining other UK societies state their stance. Aileen noted that SSM are not an active campaigning group, but Peter highlighted that the SSM's role in such activity would be discussed at the strategic review.

Raj Bhopal suggested that a 1-day meeting could be held in order to discuss the theoretical consequences for healthcare caused by Brexit. He noted that there was nothing discussing migrant healthcare at the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the SSM and that international issues were also under-discussed. Aileen agreed that this was a good idea and suggested that SSM join with other organisations in order to facilitate this. Aileen suggested that perhaps something like this is already going to occur in the autumn EUPHA meeting. Alastair Leyland and Catherine Hayes are attending this conference and will report back to SSM. Aileen asked if anyone was willing to take forward a 1 day conference. Raj Bhopal stated although not available to run the conference, he would be willing to help with the organisation of the event.

**Action Point:** To organise a 1-day conference regarding Brexit.  
Catherine Hayes to report back to SSM on EUPHA meeting.

Lisa Hilder stated that this discussion followed on from the Cochrane lecture.

Simon Capewell noted that on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the UK Public Health Network will have a discussion about Brexit and the impact on healthcare. Simon asserted that this is a matter that the Committee should take seriously.

Margaret Eames added that SSM are privileged to have residents of Ireland in the Society, especially Ivan Perry who acts as a voice from within Europe. Peter added that SSM is an international society.

Alastair Leyland suggested that a late break session at EUPHA on Brexit could occur. Aileen asked Alastair Leyland to take this idea forward.

**Action Point:** Alastair Leyland to investigate the possibility of holding a late break session at EUPHA on Brexit.

## **12. Any other business [Aileen]**

Alison Macfarlane asked whether it was worth identifying institutions with untapped potential for SSM membership. Peter confirmed that Shelina Visram had conducted a survey with this goal, and the committee are intending to target these institutions through Champions and Members.

Meeting ended 17.50.