



# Society for Social Medicine & Population Health

**Minutes: 62<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL MEDICINE**  
**Main Auditorium, Technology and Innovation Centre, Glasgow, UK**  
**17:30, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2018**

## 1. **President's welcome and opening remarks [Hazel Inskip]**

Hazel Inskip welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting of the Society of Social Medicine & Population Health. She stated that the AGM is important for the society both in legal terms and in terms of engaging the membership.

Hazel thanked Ruth and her team for organising the ASM and stated how grateful the Society was for their hard work.

## 2. **Minutes of the 61<sup>st</sup> AGM held in Manchester and matters arising [Hazel Inskip] Paper 62\_2**

The minutes for the 61<sup>st</sup> AGM held in Manchester 2017 were approved and accepted by present members.

## 3. **Honorary Secretary's Report [Peter Tennant] Paper 62\_3**

Hazel handed over to Peter Tennant (Honorary Secretary) for the Honorary Secretary's report

### a. **Departing Committee members**

Peter thanked all departing members of the committee for their contributions to the Society.

: Max Barnish (ECR Subcommittee Chair), Laia Becares (Newsletter Editor) and Claire Niedzweidz (Social Media Officer) and Aileen Clarke (Past President) who will be ending their committee roles at the end of 2018.

### b. **Main Committee activities**

Peter reported that the committee's work this year had included;

- Ballot for changing the Society's name on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018, which passed the two thresholds required for constitutional change: 1) that the turnout must exceed 50% of the membership, and 2) over 66% of the vote must approve the change.

The Society is now to be known as the 'Society for Social Medicine and Population Health' and the committee is in the process of updating the logos/communications etc. to reflect the new name.

- For the past two years, the committee has been considering how to collect and declare conflicts of interest. These discussions concluded with a recommendation that all members declare if they have any potential conflicts with the Society's aims, and this started with all members of all committees. Peter informed those present that the members of the main committee had declared their conflicts of interest. From 2019, declarations

will be required for all new and existing members. Peter thanked Aileen Clarke for driving this forward.

- Peter thanked Ruth for her innovations for this year's Glasgow ASM, referring particularly to the Twitter feed and the interactive Poll throughout the Society debate.

c. **January Committee Away Day**

Peter expressed the success of the 2018 January Away Day. A number of good ideas came out of the meeting and the committee now need to look at how to move these forward.

d. **Members Audit**

Peter advised that an SSM Membership Audit would be taking place later this year. The aim of the Audit is to collect accurate information on the profile of SSM members, the expertise of the members, potential conflicts of interest, their willingness to participate in advocacy activities, their views on the value of society membership, communications and questioning the relationship with the JECH. Peter asked all members to participate in the Audit as this will be beneficial to the Society and its members.

4. **Honorary Treasurer's Report [Anna Pearce] Paper 62\_4**

Anna Pearce (Honorary Treasurer) summarised Paper 62\_4 which has been appended to these minutes for reference (see appendix 3).

Anna reported that at the end of August 2018, the Society's bank balance was just over £100,000. Anna thanked Tarani Chandola for his hard work on the Manchester ASM. Anna emphasised the financial aim of the ASM is to break even, though it is hard to predict the final balance, and invest according to aims of society. At this year's ASM, fees have been held at last year's level.

It was mentioned that the major investments during 2017 were the Brexit meeting, skills training and the mentoring scheme. There was also an increased spend on ASM free places (these expenses vary according to the ASM location and the number of successful applicants and honorary life members who end up taking a place.)

Anna reported that the Committee would like to continue to monitor membership. She highlighted GDPR, and how the committee is looking at communications in relation to how members will be contacted when their membership expires. She explained that when membership expires HG3 Conference's aren't able to chase members for renewal. Jenny Mindell asked if an email can be sent to members with a simple yes/no response, rather than logging into the member's area. Peter Tennant replied that the Committee is looking into how SSM can minimise risks. Anna urged members to check that they have consented to be contacted by HG3 by logging into their SSM membership accounts, until Hg3 and the committee finalise how SSM are able to communicate with their members going forward.

Anna noted that the Society still has many inactive members who remain on the membership database because they continue to contribute to the Society via standing orders, and these are considered as donations.

Nick Payne questioned the day delegate rate for the ASM and asked if the Committee could look at making it pro-rata, as it is currently more than half of the cost of the full

conference. Kate Hunt added that a reduced day delegate fee may encourage more to attend – particularly those with child care issues.

Peter Tennant queried whether it would also be helpful to introduce a reduced rate for retired members.

**Action:** Committee to look at the day delegate cost for the conference

**a) Finance – Paper 62\_4a**

Anna asked those present to look at Paper 62\_4a (accounts for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017). Alastair Leyland queried a point in Anna's report where it stated that there was a profit when in actual fact this was a deficit.

**Action:** Anna to amend Report

Jenny Mindell proposed, GJ Melendez-Torres seconded the motion to approve the Society accounts.

**b) Membership**

There has been a general downward fluctuation in membership but this could be due to GDPR. Anna doesn't believe this to be a cause for concern.

**5. Early Career Researchers Section Report [Max Barnish] Paper 62\_5**

Max Barnish explained that the ECR workshop was very successful and thanked the ECR officers and SSM committee for their support.

- Max discussed publishing ECRs' achievements.
- It was also announced there would be an election for new ECR subcommittee members but the exact roles are to be decided by Kathryn Skivington.
- Max will be leaving the committee at the end of the year.

**6. Middle Career Researchers Section [GJ Melendez-Torres] Paper 62\_6**

GJ explained that the pre-conference event was very well received.

- As a new initiative, the MCR committee has organised a new workshop on Thursday afternoon in the ASM. They are grateful to SCR members Aileen Clarke, Martin White and Alastair Leyland for volunteering their time.
- Social media presence has increased on Twitter following Emily Murray setting up a new MCR account which has been used to good effect to promote SSM members research.
- Ruth Dundas is taking over as Chair at the end of the year.

**7. Senior Career Researchers Section Report [Hazel Inskip] Paper 62\_7**

Hazel explained that they are trying to develop the SCR committee. Stephen Oliver has stepped down from committee and she thanked him for his help. Hazel asked for support from anyone in the room to develop SCR committee – any interested members should contact Hazel directly to discuss this further.

**Action:** Peter Tennant discussed calls to go out for new subcommittee members for ECR, MCR & SCR committees.

## 8. Mentoring Scheme Report [Hazel Inskip] *Paper 62\_8*

Hazel explained that the mentoring scheme was going well with the help of Rebecca Lacey as Deputy Mentoring officer who has helped the scheme flourish.

They have trained 41 mentors up but now there are not enough mentees (33 mentees) for each to be able to mentor someone but getting the balance right is challenging.

ECR's and MCR's drove this and asked for it, but there is now a lack of people coming forward wanting to be mentored. If anyone is interested in being mentored, they should contact Hazel who reminded the meeting that this is fairly unique to SSM. Members should be encouraged to take up the mentoring offer and she emphasised its strength in being independent of the mentee's work institution

## 9. External relations [Catherine Hayes] *Paper 62\_9*

### a) HSRUK memorandum of understanding

Plans are developing for a joint conference in Spring 2020. Both organisations have agreed to promote each other's conferences. Discussions are still at an early stage regarding a topic of common interest to both members.

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

All SSM members are members of EUPHA. The next EUPHA conference theme is towards new ways of developing Population health and EUPHA is starting to increase its advocacy role. EUPHA agreed that on relevant issues, the past and present presidents will put together a statement on behalf of EUPHA, which if necessary could be withdrawn later – statements need to be sent out quickly so there is no time to wait for a consensus from members. SSM would need to develop a, nimble system if wishes to engage in advocacy.

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

SSM is continuing to work on its relationship with IEA. There is a joint meeting in Cork in 2019 and the World IEA meeting will be in Melbourne in 2020. Ivan is working with the IEA so that SSM members can join IEA for a reduced fee if they are SSM members. The aim is to have this in place before the joint meeting in 2019 in Cork.

### d) Other links [Catherine Hayes]

Kate Hunt asked how we go about forging new links and managing overlaps with other events. Is there a process for building links? Catherine Hayes explained there is no formal process. Links are welcomed but need to be managed through the committee to avoid duplication.

A question on the audit will ask members about other societies to which they belong, and what other events to they attend. This will hopefully help SSM strengthen links.

Nason Maani Hessari mentioned he was involved in capacity workshops which are funded by the Newton fund. The ECRs/MCRs face similar challenges across SSM and these may help in developing overseas relationships.

Margaret Eames discussed the Royal Statistics Society clashes but would be willing to communicate to avoid date clashing in the future. SSM 2020 meeting is reverting back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in September.

## 10. Members' survey [Peter Tennant and Hazel Inskip]

Peter reminded all members present that there is a members' survey due out soon and asked members to keep an eye out for this and to complete this.

## 11. Future scientific meetings [Peter Tennant]

### a) ASM Cork, 2019 [Ivan Perry]

Ivan explained that this is well on track, the venue is a fairly new build and they are currently working towards a well organised, exciting programme.

### b) ASM Cambridge, 2020 [Hazel Inskip]

Carol Brayne is organising the Cambridge ASM along with Danielle Cannon (administrator). This will be on the 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> September, aiming to avoid clashes with other meetings and the start of the school term in England and Wales.

### c) ASM, 2021 [Hazel Inskip]

Hazel asked for anyone interested in hosting the 2021 ASM to let her know as soon as possible. She reminded the meeting that it is a great opportunity for any institution interested.

## 12. Communications report [Dorina Cadar] *Paper 62\_12*

Dorina explained that Twitter and social media are currently the best way forward. The communications team is currently researching the best way to communicate with members, and there will be questions in the members' audit regarding this.

The change in the society name has been acknowledged in most communications and material produced for circulation. New logos have been produced by Michael Heasman. All of them are only in the long format.

Dorina thanked the Newsletter editor group (Laila Becares, Kate Best, Marie Murphy, Anthony Laverty and Kate Mason) who produced 3 newsletters this year. They are also considering creating a blog.

The network platform is progressing well and three networking groups have taken place at this year's ASM, organised by Janice Atkins and Dorina Cadar. The idea is to facilitate a starting point for informal networking in order to share ideas and foster connections between SSM members with similar research interests across different levels of seniority.

Hazel thanked Dorina for taking on the role and advancing the Society's communications.

## 13. Committee changes and forthcoming roles [Peter Tennant]

Peter said he will be putting out a call for a new President.

Peter also discussed that there are some roles coming to an end and will put out a call for anyone interested in taking up a position on the committee. He believes it would be good to have an elections for the various posts.

## 14. Any other business [Hazel Inskip]

Hazel asked if we could formally minute the name change, following the vote previous. The Society will now be known as 'Society for Social Medicine & Population Health'.

Nick Payne asked if there is any update that can be shared regarding Brexit. Hazel Inskip replied that the field is moving very quickly, she explained it is difficult with the UK/Ireland link, and it is hard currently to see how things will develop.

Peter explained there was a statement of opinion drawn up regarding Brexit, but the Society had come up against a brick wall with the Journals who showed very little interest (i.e. Lancet and BMJ).

Aileen Clarke asked if this was on the website and if not, would it be appropriate to upload it.

Margaret Eames agreed that the Statement should be on the website, dated and then tweeted when uploaded.

Could SSM consider an alternative journal for promoting it?

Dorina said she could send a letter to the JECH.

Nason explained that the Brexit meeting was a valuable experience but a disappointing result. He suggested the Society should catalogue the experience.

Hazel thanked all members for attending; the committee; local organisers; Hg3 Conferences and the outgoing committee.