



HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST AUGUST 2015

1. The 2015 Committee

Simon Capewell	President; ECR champion
Aileen Clarke	President elect; external relations lead, MCR champion
Michaela Benzeval	Honorary Secretary; committee and constitution lead
Mark Gilthorpe	Honorary Treasurer; finance and membership lead
Mark Kelson (co-opted)	Communications Officer; SSM representative UK Health Forum
Janis Baird	Handbook co-ordinator
Ruth Dundas	One day and workshop co-ordinator
Sheena Ramsay	External relations; SSM representative FPHM ARC
Tony Robinson	New members secretary
Peter Tennant	Honorary Treasurer elect, mentor co-ordinator, Middle Career Section (MCR)Chair
Kate Tilling	ASM abstract moderator
Shelina Visram	Membership secretary
Ellen Flint (co-opted)	ASM liaison officer
Rebecca Johnson (co-opted)	Newsletter editor
Emily Murray (co-opted)	Social Media co-ordinator
Dorina Cadar (ECR representative)	ECR Chair
Sara Ronzi (ECR representative)	ECR Chair elect
Alastair Leyland (co-opted)	SSM-EUPHA link representative
Cecily Kelleher (co-opted)	Chair ASM 2015 local organising committee
Steven Oliver (co-opted)	Chair ASM 2016 local organising committee

Additionally, we would like to thank Karen Rees for continuing in her role of mentor officer, and Elizabeth Breeze for taking on the role of SSM Survey Officer, the output of which you will be sent at the end of the Conference so that we can evaluate and learn about what has worked well in Dublin for future Conferences.

At the end of this calendar year the following people will step down from the Committee: Mark Gilthorpe, Janis Baird, Dorina Cadar, Rebecca Johnson and Sheena Ramsay. Additionally, Cecily Kelleher's role on the committee will end after the Dublin ASM, Simon Capewell will move into the role of past president while Aileen Clarke will take on the role of President. On behalf of the Society I would like to thank them all for the valuable contributions they have made to the Committee over the last few years.

We look forward to welcoming new committee members (to be announced under item 3 at the AGM), as well as the new Honorary Secretary and Treasurer and the 2017 ASM LOC Chair in the New Year.

To ensure that the learning and experience of departing committee members is kept for those new to the role, Jenny Mindell, when she was Honorary Secretary, developed a SSM handbook. This year, Janis Baird

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has extensively updated this valuable living document, and it will be online for Committee members to understand their roles and responsibilities, and for all members to learn more about what we do.

2. Committee activities in 2015

While the faces on the committee change, bringing fresh ideas, interests and networks; the aspiration of the Committee to improve the Society for all of its members remains paramount. We have continued to develop our activities in relation to the three priority areas identified after the 2012 members' survey:

- External relations: in 2014 we developed more formal relations with other societies. Aileen Clarke has been considering how to go forward further with this work and will be presenting ideas at the AGM under item 8.
- ASM and other meetings: in Oxford, we introduced debates linked to the plenaries, and given the overwhelming positive response this received in the conference evaluation; we have adopted a similar approach this year. We would welcome feedback on this and other ways the ASM can be developed in the future.
- Capacity building: in 2014 we introduced a pilot mentoring system for ECRs, after a year we have evaluated this and Dorina Cadar will report on this and our next steps under item 7. This year, Ruth Dundas has led the development of an annual competition for SSM workshops, which is being launched at the ASM. We look forward to receiving your applications in due course. Finally, given the success of the ECR section in creating a community of peers to support each other at this stage of their careers, we propose establishing a Middle Career Researcher Section. Peter Tennant will say more about this under item 6.

Given the changes that have been introduced, we are just launching a new survey which we hope will be completed by both members and non-members to inform the next stage of the Society's developments. This work has been led by Tony Robertson and Shelina Visram.

We are keen to identify other ways in which we can support members and encourage new members; Mark Gilthorpe will discuss this in more detail as part of the Treasurer's report under item 4.

3. Constitutional changes adopted in 2015

At the 2014 AGM we asked for your support to make a number of changes to the Society's constitution to improve the way we work. A vote of the whole membership was subsequently carried out online, with overwhelming support given for all of the changes. We have therefore incorporated these into our constitution.

- a) increasing the number of ordinary committee members to nine;
- b) making the role of Communications Officer an elected executive office with a term of five years;
- c) creating a constitutional basis for co-opted roles on the committee: in general, co-opted members have the same term as ordinary members (3 years) unless a specific role requires different terms; the number of co-opted members should never exceed the number of elected members.

We also tried to introduce a new more democratic approach to the nomination of honorary members in 2015, asking all current members to nominate colleagues they felt deserved honorary members. Unfortunately we received no response. We would welcome thoughts on how we can achieve a more inclusive approach to the choice of honorary members in the future.

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4. Subcommittees

a) Early Career Researchers Section

The members of the 2015 subcommittee are:

Dorina Cadar UCL	ECR Chair
Sara Ronzi University of Liverpool	ECR Chair-Elect
Sadie Boniface King's College London	ECR Survey Officer
Hayley Denison Victoria University of Wellington	ECR Newsletter Officer
Sarah Gibney University College Dublin	ECR ASM Workshop Officer
Rebecca Lacey UCL	ECR Social Media Officer
Kathryn Oliver UCL	ECR Rights and Welfare Officer
Snehal Pinto Pereira UCL	ECR Election Officer
Melanie Rimmer University of Sheffield	ECR Networks platform Officers
Lia Demou University of Glasgow	ECR Gig Trail Officer

As you will hear under item 7, the ECR Section is active in developing this part of the Society and we would like to thank them all for their efforts. They will be holding elections among the ECR members for new committee members after the ASM.

b) Communications

The Communications sub-committee members are: Mark Kelson (Chair), Michael Heasman (webmaster), Martin White, Karen Rees, Noriko Cable, Catherine Dunningham, Elizabeth Breeze, Hayley Denison, Dorina Cadar, Shelina Visram, Emily Murray, and the Newsletter editorial team: Richard Shaw, Rebecca Johnson, Jo Thompson-Coon, and Sheena McHugh.

The communications group have been busy with a range of new developments this year. For example, they have introduced twitter debates. Mark Kelson will outline activities and plans under item 5.

5. Report on Annual Scientific Meetings

Annual Scientific Meeting 2014

The 58th Annual Scientific Meeting was held in Oxford. There were 96 papers in oral parallel sessions, 80 posters, 6 workshops, and a pre-conference workshop for early careers researchers. Many thanks go to Ben Cairns and the local organising committee.

Annual Scientific Meeting 2015

The 59th ASM is being held at University College Dublin from 2nd to 4th September. 221 abstracts were received and each abstract was independently scored by four peer-reviewers. Kate Tilling, Ellen Flint and Mark Gilthorpe revised the scoring system in light of feedback from members last year. We would like to thank all of the 40 reviewers for reviewing abstracts with such care, and Kate Tilling for moderating the results.

There are 96 papers in oral parallel sessions, 2 moderated poster sessions, 3 workshops, and a pre-conference workshop for early careers researchers. Abstracts for both oral presentations and posters are being published in a Supplement of the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*. This will be available online after the conference with print copies provided to those attending the meeting. This year's Cochrane lecture is being given by John Britton and the Pemberton Lecture by Cyrus Cooper; each lecture will be followed by a panel discussion and they promise to be really stimulating events. The highest scoring abstracts by: a pre-PhD ECR: Miss Wenji Guo; post-PhD ECR: Dr Kirk Allen; and non-ECR: Miss Eimear Keane will be presented in the Friday plenary session. There will also be prizes this year for the best posters, so do

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go along to the poster session to view them. We would like to congratulate and thank everyone presenting a paper or a poster this year for being selected and look forward to hearing and seeing their research.

Cecily Kelleher and her local organising committee, together with HG3, our conference organisers, have done a fantastic job at what looks promising to be a very stimulating event. We would like to thank them for all of their hard work.

6. Future ASMs

In 2016 the ASM will be in York on Wednesday 14 – Friday 16 September, this will be the Society's 60th ASM and plans for it are well developed thanks to Steven Oliver, the Chair of the local organising committee

In 2017, the ASM will be held in Manchester; we are pleased to welcome Tarani Chandola to the Committee in his role as Chair of that organising committee.

7. Closing remarks

This is my final Secretary's Report, as I will step down from the Honorary Secretary's role at the end of 2015. It has been an honour and pleasure to be part of the Committee and to play a small part in helping to shape the Society for the future. I would particularly like to thank Mark Gilthorpe and Janis Baird for their support to me during my time as Secretary, and Steph Bryant who, with her colleagues at HG3, have made the Secretary's role infinitely easier with their efficient support and administration. I would like to wish Peter Tennant, the next Honorary Secretary (and the first man in the role for a very long time!) every success for his term in office.

Michaela Benzeval 1st September 2015