



## HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2017

*Peter WG Tennant, Thursday 07 September 2017*

### 1) 2017 committee representatives

#### a. Main committee:

<b>Executive officers:</b>		
Aileen Clarke	University of Warwick	President
Hazel Inskip	University of Southampton	President-Elect
		& Mentorship Officer
Mark Kelson	University of Exeter	Communications Officer
Anna Pearce	University of Glasgow	Honorary Treasurer
Peter Tennant	University of Leeds	Honorary Secretary
<b>Ordinary members:</b>		
Laia Becares	University of Manchester	Newsletter editor
Dorina Cadar	University College London	Network platform officer
Ruth Dundas	University of Glasgow	One-day workshop officer
		& Chair of ASM LOC 2018
Catherine Hayes	University of Sunderland	External relations officer
Hazel Inskip	University of Southampton	Mentorship officer
Claire Niedzwiedz	University of Oxford	Social media officer
Tony Robertson	University of Stirling	New members officer
<b>Subcommittee representatives:</b>		
Lia Demou	University of Liverpool	Chair of ECR subcommittee
Sarah Dickenson	University of Glasgow	Co-chair-elect of ECR subcommittee
Maxwell Barnish	University of Exeter	Co-chair-elect of ECR subcommittee
Amy Downing	University of Leeds	Chair of MCR subcommittee
Shelina Visram	Newcastle University	Chair-elect of MCR subcommittee
<b>Co-opted members:</b>		
Steven Oliver	University of York	SCR champion
Tarani Chandola	University of Manchester	Chair of ASM LOC 2017
Alastair Leyland	University of Glasgow	EUPHA liaison officer
Ivan Perry	University College Cork	IEA/EEF liaison officer
		& Chair of ASM LOC 2019
<b>Administration &amp; support</b>		
Kate Murray	HG3 Conferences	

**b. ECR subcommittee:**

Lia Demou	University of Glasgow	Chair
Max Barnish	University of Exeter	Chair-Elect
Sarah Jackson	University College London	Chair-Elect (Maternity Leave)
Sara Ronzi	University of Liverpool	Past-Chair
Janice Atkins	University of Exeter	Network Platform Officer
Kate Best	Newcastle University	Newsletter officer
Sadie Boniface	King's College London	Social Media officer & ECR Gig Trail officer
Georgia Chatzi	University of Manchester	ASM 2017 Liaison Officer
José Ignacio Cuitún Coronado	University of Manchester	
Sarah Gibney	University College Dublin	Mentoring officer & Elections officer
Rebecca Lacey	University College London	Social media officer
Naoimh McMahon	University of Central Lancashire	Network Platform Officer
Linda Ng Fat	University College London	Mentoring officer
Melanie Rimmer	University of Sheffield	Social media officer and Website officer
Noortje Uphoff	University of York	

**c. MCR subcommittee:**

Amy Downing	University of Leeds	Chair
GJ Melendez-Torres	University of Warwick	Chair-Elect
Shelina Visram	Newcastle University	Chair-Elect (Maternity Leave)
Sheena Ramsey	University College London	Past-Chair
Noriko Cable	University College London	Mentoring officer
Ruth Dundas	University of Glasgow	
Lucy Griffiths	University College London	
Mark Kelson	Cardiff University	Communications officer
Emily Murray	University College London	Social media officer
Emily Petherick	Loughborough University	
Jo Thompson-Coon	University of Exeter	Newsletter officer
Frank de Vocht	University of Bristol	Network platform officer

**d. Newsletter team**

Laia Bécares	University of Manchester	
Kate Best	Newcastle University	ECR Newsletter Officer
Marie Murphy	University of Warwick	
Jo Thompson-Coon	University of Exeter	

**e. Other roles**

Elizabeth Breeze	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	Survey Officer
Helen Bromley	University of Liverpool	EUPHA scientific committee representative

**2) Departing committee members:**

Mark Kelson and Tony Robertson will be ending their committee roles at the end of 2017. I would like to offer my special thanks, on behalf of the committee, for their hugely valuable contributions. I very much hope they consider returning for another role again in the future

**3) Main committee activities**

**a. SSM One-Day Event on 'Health and Brexit'**

At our 60th AGM in York, several members expressed a desire for the Society to lead on considering the implications of Brexit for population health. A task and finish group was hence formed to consider the viability of hosting a one-day event, that comprised President Aileen Claire, Honorary-Treasurer Anna Pearce, Honorary-Secretary Peter Tennant, and Society members Raj Bhopal, Rebecca Lacey, Martin Mckee, and Emily Murray. The group agreed that there were good grounds to organise a special one-day event for experts and members to discuss the implications of Brexit for population health, and (hopefully) develop an output statement.

An event was organised and held on 18th May 2017 at the Wellcome Trust Collection (London, UK) with some financial support from the Health Foundation. Unfortunately, due to the event's unusually short development period (and corresponding duration of advertisement and notice), a clashing event from the MRC, and the difficulty of potential delegates obtaining institutional funding, recruitment was extremely challenging. In the final two weeks, we therefore offered substantial discounts for our members, and the event managed to recruit approximately 70 delegates.

The event was well received by those who attended, and obtained a positive write-up from the Lancet's Editor-in-Chief Professor Richard Horton ([http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)31426-5.pdf](http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(17)31426-5.pdf)). The task-and-finish group, and the invited speakers, together prepared an output statement - to be known as the 'Society for Social Medicine Declaration on Health After Brexit' - that is currently undergoing peer review. Prior to publication, the Declaration has obtained endorsement from a number of leading health organisations, including:

- Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH)
- European Public Health Association (EUPHA)
- Faculty of Public Health (FPH)
- Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health (FSRH)
- Health Services Research UK (HSRUK)
- Royal College of Midwives (RCM)

- Royal College of Nursing (RCN)
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH)
- Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd)
- Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH)
- UK Health Forum (UKHF)
- UK Society for Behavioural Medicine (UKSBM)

Alongside the potential impact on public discussions on health after Brexit, it is hoped that this Declaration will increase the public profile of the Society.

**b. 'Away Day' and strategic review**

The Main Committee had their 200th meeting in January 2017. To mark the occasion, they also spent the afternoon considered several strategic matters, including the structure of the committee (to reduce the size and expenditure), the Society's policy on conflicts of interest, the Society's policy on external relations and advocacy, and ASM's abstract marking criteria, the overall aims and objectives of the Society, and the Society's name. This led to modification of the abstract marking criteria for the 61st ASM, consultation on the Society's name, and drafting and agreement on a core set of objectives. The SSM Aims and Objectives 2017 will be revealed to members in advance of the 61st Annual General Meeting and announced on our website shortly thereafter.

**c. Mentoring Scheme**

Hazel Inskip and the mentorship team have overseen two training sessions for SCR and MCR members who have volunteered to become mentors. Both were fully booked, although there were a few last-minute drop outs (sadly not uncommon with free training). The Society now have a good supply of mentors, and we are now asking for ECR and MCR members who would like to benefit from this scheme as mentees.

**d. Changes to the format of the ASM**

With special thanks to Tarani Chandola (chair of the LOC for the 61th ASM), the committee are delighted to introduce further innovations to the format and character of the ASM. The debate from last years' 60th ASM has been modified into an expert discussion and moved to the middle Thursday. Workshops have also been embedded within parallel sessions, to allow members to choose between workshops and oral presentations throughout the event.

**e. Proposed changes to the Society's name**

At their 200th meeting, the Main Committee discussed the case for changing the Society's name. The justification was deemed sufficient for consideration and the Honorary-Secretary called for members to suggest alternatives. Several suggestions were proposed, from which the committee considered the '*Society for Social Medicine and Population Health*' as having the most merit. The case for hosting a vote on changing our name to the Society for Social Medicine and Population Health will be discussed at the 61st Annual General Meeting.

**4) Annual Scientific Meetings**

**a. ASM 2017 (Manchester)**

The 61st Annual Scientific Meeting is being held at University of Manchester during 5th-8th September 2017. 226 abstracts were received and each was

independently scored by four-independent reviewers using a modified version of the 2015 abstract scoring system. The modifications followed careful deliberation at the 200th meeting of the Main Committee, and principally concerned 1) considering the criteria advisory not prescriptive, 2) freeing the allocation of marks from each domain (i.e. 1 for the title, 2 for the introduction...), and 3) the incorporation of 'priority and relevance' in the total score. It was agreed that new criteria were needed for qualitative and methodological abstracts, and these will be considered after the 61st ASM has concluded. We thank all our reviewers for their hard work and diligence and offer special thanks to Amy Downing and Claire Niedzwiedz, for their huge efforts carrying out the statistical moderation.

The 61<sup>st</sup> ASM will include 100 papers presented in oral parallel session, 3 presented in oral plenary session (chosen by the committee from the 10 highest scoring overall according to their priority and relevance score, and to provide a balance of topics), 100 poster presentations, 7 workshops, and two pre-conference one-day events; one for ECRs and one for MCRs. The abstracts for all oral presentations and posters will be published in a supplement of the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, which were made available online before the start of the 61st ASM. The Cochrane lecture will be delivered by Jennie Popay (University of Lancaster) and the Pemberton Lecture by Alasdair Leyland (University of Glasgow). The event will also see a discussion between Michael Marmot and Richard Wilkinson, entitled, 'The future of social determinants of health and health inequalities research'. Prizes will be awarded during the final plenary session for the highest scoring abstracts submitted from a pre-PhD ECR and a post PhD ECR, and the top three highest-scoring poster presentations (to be judged at the conference).

On behalf of the main and local organising committees, I would like to thank everyone who is presenting an oral or poster presentation at the 61<sup>st</sup> ASM for their efforts and contributions. Special thanks also to Tarani Chandola, the local organising committee, and HG3 for their hard work and diligence preparing the event.

**b. ASM 2018 (Glasgow)**

The 62nd Annual Scientific Meeting will be held at University of Glasgow during 5th-7th September 2018. The conference is being organised by Ruth Dundas, chair of the 2017 ASM local organising committee.

**c. ASM 2019 (Cork)**

The 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting will be held at University of Glasgow during September 2019. The conference will be held jointly with the IEA European Federation. Ivan Perry has started reporting to the committee in his new role as chair of the 2019 local organising committee.

**5) One-day Meetings and Workshops**

The Society made its second call for one-day meeting and workshop applications (with funds available up to £5000). Two applications were received, including a proposal for a four-day 'summer school'. Both were judged eligible for funding after peer review and consideration by the committee.

**a. June 2017 - Advanced Modelling Strategies: Pitfalls and pathways to causal inference with observational data. (University of Leeds) (≈£3441)**

Members Mark Gilthorpe and Peter Tennant organised this four-day residential course at the Leeds Institute for Data Analytics (University of Leeds) during 17th-

20th June 2017. The event focussed on emerging 'causal inference' methods for the analysis of observational data. 25 delegates attended, including 15 SSM members - 12 of whom received bursaries from the Society that covered fees and accommodation. The organisers charged the Society lower fees for bursary attendees (-£100 for ECRs, -£200 for MCRs). The Society invested an estimated £3,441 for 12 members to attend (the final figure will be confirmed by the Honorary Treasurer).

The event was 75% oversubscribed, with 12 SSM members missing out on a bursary and 7 self-funded delegates turned away. 100% (25/25) agreed the course was 'interesting', including 80% (20/25) who strongly agreed. 100% (15/15) of members thought the course was relevant to the 'SSM membership', with 80% (12/15) considering it very relevant. 100% (25/25) of delegates thought the course would 'change... (their) approach to data analytics in the future'.

**b. June 2017 - Systematic reviews: a kickstart. (University of Exeter) (£0)**

Members Rebecca Abbott and Jo Thomson Coon planned this one-day workshop at the Peninsula medical school (University of Exeter) for 28th June 2017. It was however postponed until next year due to a lack of registrations. The organisers have been asked to evaluate the limited interest, and consider whether the course could contain more advanced material. The Society agreed to offer further promotion in future, as the organising team felt the event may have been lost amongst marketing for the Health and Brexit event.

The Society will be launching the third call for workshop and meeting applications in late autumn 2017, details of which will be shared through our various modes of communication.