



Society for Social Medicine & Population Health

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT (YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2018)

Peter WG Tennant, Wednesday 05 September 2018

1. 2018 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

a. Main Committee

Name	Institution	Role(s)
Elected officers		
Dorina Cadar	University College London	Communications Officer
Aileen Clarke	University of Warwick	Past-President
Sarah Gibney	Department of Health, Ireland	Honorary Secretary-Elect
Hazel Inskip	University of Southampton	President
		& Mentorship Officer
Anna Pearce	University of Glasgow	Honorary Treasurer
Peter Tennant	University of Leeds	Honorary Secretary
Elected members		
Laia Becares	University of Manchester	Newsletter editor
Catherine Hayes	University of Sunderland	External relations officer
Claire Niedzwiedz	Mental Health Foundation	Social media officer
Rebecca Lacey	University College London	Deputy Mentorship officer
Mel Rimmer (Until May)	University of Sheffield	Scientific officer
Co-opted members		
Maxwell Barnish	University of Exeter	Chair of ECR subcommittee
Ruth Dundas	University of Glasgow	Chair of ASM LOC 2018
		& Chair-elect of MCR subcommittee
Alastair Leyland	University of Glasgow	EUPHA liaison officer
GJ Melendez Torres	Cardiff University	Chair of MCR subcommittee
Steven Oliver (Until May)	University of York	SCR Champion
Ivan Perry	University College Cork	IEA (Europe) liaison officer
		& Chair of ASM LOC 2019
Kathryn Skivington (From June)	University of Glasgow	Chair-elect of ECR subcommittee
Administrative support		
Kate Murray (Until May)	Hg3 Conferencing	
Louise Smith (From June)	Hg3 Conferencing	

b. ECR Subcommittee

Name	Institution	Role(s)
Janice Atkins	University of Exeter	Network Platform Officer
Max Barnish	University of Exeter	Chair & Welfare officer
Kate Best	Newcastle University	Newsletter Officer
Georgia Chatzi	University of Manchester	Past Local Officer (ASM 2017)
Evangelia Demou	University of Glasgow	Past-Chair
Linda Ng Fat	University College London	Mentoring officer
Gillian Fergie	University of Glasgow	Local Officer (ASM 2018)
José Ignacio Cuitún Coronado	University of Manchester	Past Local Officer (ASM 2017)
Naoimh McMahon	University of Central Lancashire	Deputy Welfare Officer
Tarra Penney	University of Cambridge	Communications Officer
Kathryn Skivington	University of Glasgow	Chair-Elect & Local Officer (ASM 2018)

c. MCR subcommittee:

Name	Institution	Role(s)
Noriko Cable	University College London	Mentoring officer
Ruth Dundas	University of Glasgow	Chair-Elect
Amy Downing	University of Leeds	Past-Chair
Lucy Griffiths	University College London	
Mark Kelson	University of Exeter	Communications officer
GJ Melendez-Torres	University of Warwick	Chair
Emily Murray	University College London	Social media officer
Emily Petherick	Loughborough University	
Sheena Ramsay	Newcastle University	Past-Chair
Jo Thompson-Coon	University of Exeter	Newsletter officer
Shelina Visram	Newcastle University	

d. Newsletter team

Name	Institution	Role(s)
Laia Bécares	University of Manchester	Newsletter Editor
Kate Best	Newcastle University	ECR Newsletter Officer
Anthony Laverty	Imperial College	
Kate Mason	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	
Marie Murphy	Ulster University	
Jo Thompson-Coon (Until March)	University of Exeter	

e. Departing committee members:

Laia Becares, Max Barnish, Catherine Hayes, Claire Niedzwiedz, and GJ Melendez Torres will be ending their committee roles at the end of 2018. I would like to offer my thanks on behalf of the committee for contributing their time and energy. I much hope they consider returning for another role again in the future.

2. MAIN COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

a. Society name change

On 17th April 2018, the committee invited all 560 active members of the Society to participate in a ballot on changing the Society's name from the '*Society for Social Medicine*' to the '*Society for Social Medicine and Population Health*'. Members were given four calendar weeks to participate, with reminders sent to non-responders when there were two weeks, one week, and 2 days remaining.

69% (n=388) of members participated in the ballot, 85% (n=329) of whom supported the proposed change and 15% (n=59) of whom did not. This passes 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.

Rule 1 of the constitution has therefore been changed to the following: "*The Society shall be called the Society for Social Medicine and Population Health, and is hereinafter referred to as the Society.*" The committee are now in the process of changing all communication and contact details accordingly.

b. Conflicts of interest

For the past two years, the committee has been considering how to collect and declare potential 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 that this start with all members of all committees. Members of the main committee have made their general declarations and are also now expected to declare any specific conflicts with any specific agenda items before each meeting. From 2019, declarations will be required for all new and existing members. Authors of all abstracts submitted to the 61st ASM were also asked to declare whether they had any potential conflicts of interest, a practice which will continue for all future meetings. We are grateful to Aileen Clarke for shepherding this work to completion.

c. Other portfolio activities

Updates on the Society's Mentoring Scheme, External Relations, and the activities of our ECR Section and MCR Section are available in their separate reports.

d. Changes to the format of the ASM

With thanks to Ruth Dundas (chair of the LOC for the 62nd ASM), the 2018 ASM will be experimenting with several innovations.

This year, the Society invited submissions for a limited number of 'late breaking' abstracts. An abstract protocol submission was initially judged, and those above the quality threshold for a poster were subsequently invited to submit a second

abstract, complete with results, before the end of June. The five highest-scoring among these will be presented in an experimental 'late breaking' parallel session.

The session profiling three 'high scoring' abstracts has been replaced with a new 'rapid-fire' session, allowing approximately 40 delegates to present their work in the same time that was previously reserved for just 3 delegates.

Several other changes have been made in response to feedback from the 61st ASM. The Society debate has been modified into an interactive floor discussion (this year discussing the future of Population Health), with an invited panel providing prompts for consideration. To allow more contributions from the floor, the post-plenary panel discussants have also been removed. Finally, workshops have been returned to a stand-alone session on Thursday afternoon.

e. Challenges and actions identified at January 'away day'

The committee held another 'away day' in January 2018, to identify and discuss challenges to the Society's ongoing relevance to its members and the discipline of population health. Topics identified and discussed included:

- Ensuring the ASM remains valuable and relevant, given increasing competition and financial and time pressures
- Realising the aim of being an 'expert voice for population health',
- The benefits and suitability of our existing alliances, and how to build new and stronger relationships to increase our collective relevance
- Increasing engagement from our SCRs, who are enthusiastic about mentoring, but are no longer attending the ASM in large numbers
- The quality of our emails, newsletter, website, and social media
- Advocating for improved working conditions and member welfare

Discussions identified the need for an audit of our members, to better understand their needs, their willingness to get involved in external facing activities, and their existing strategic relationships.

f. Membership Audit

The Main Committee has prepared a survey that will be shared with the membership after the ASM. The audit aims to collect accurate information on the profile of our members, including their potential conflicts of interest, their willingness to participate in advocacy activities, and their views on the value of Society membership, our communications and external relations.

3. ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

a. ASM 2018 (Glasgow)

The 62nd Annual Scientific Meeting is being held in Glasgow during 5th-7th September 2018. 247 abstracts were received, and each was independently scored by 3-4 independent reviewers using the 2017-modified version of the 2015 abstract scoring system. Scores for each abstract were averaged and ranked after scores were standardised within-reviewer. We thank all our reviewers for their hard work and diligence.

The 62nd ASM will include 90 papers presented in the oral parallel session, 38 papers presented in a rapid-fire parallel session, 53 poster presentations, four

workshops, and three pre-conference one-day events; one for ECRs and one for MCRs, and a mentor training session. Abstracts for all oral presentations, rapid-fire 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 62nd ASM. The Cochrane lecture will be delivered by Kate Hunt (University of Glasgow) and the Pemberton Lecture by Mel Bartley (University College London). The event will also host a discussion between delegates, with prompts from a panel comprising Steve Cummings, Tara Penney, Peter Tennant, and Sally White, entitled, '*What are the future challenges for population health?*'. Prizes will be awarded for the highest scoring abstracts submitted from a pre-PhD ECR, post PhD ECR, and MCR or SCR; the best rapid-fire presentation in each of the five rapid-fire sessions, and the best poster in each of the two poster presentation sessions.

On behalf of the main and local organising committees, I would like to thank everyone for attending the 62nd ASM for their efforts and contributions, particularly those presenting an oral presentation, rapid-fire presentation, and poster presentation. Special thanks also to Ruth Dundas, the local organising team, and Hg3 for their tremendous work preparing the event.

b. ASM 2019 (Cork)

The 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting will be held jointly with the IEA European Section at University College Cork, Cork, Ireland during 4th-6th September 2019. Ivan Perry is chair of the local organising committee. Pre-conference workshops are planned for ECR and MCR members on Tuesday 3rd September. The Cochrane lecture will be delivered by Margaret Whitehouse (University of Liverpool, UK) and the Pemberton Lecture by Ken Rothman (RTI International, USA).

c. ASM 2020 (Cambridge)

The 64th Annual Scientific Meeting will be held at University of Cambridge during 9th-11th September 2020. Carol Brayne will be chairing the local organising committee and will be co-opted onto the main committee in 2019.

4. OTHER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

The Society held no additional events or meetings during 2018. The Society will, however, be announcing a new call for one-day workshop applications after the ASM, details of which will be shared through our various modes of communication.