

# TREASURER'S REPORT – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, GLASGOW 2018

## Membership

The official membership of the Society at the end of 2017 was 573 of which 60 were (free subscription) honorary members and the remainder paid-up members.

This represents a small decrease since the end of 2016, when there were a total of 588 (57) members.

As noted in previous years, many 'inactive' members remain on our database who continue to contribute to the Society via their Standing Orders to our NatWest account. We attempt to chase these individuals for 18 months', after which their payments are received as 'donations' to the Society.

## Finances and SSM investments

Overall, the Society's finances remain healthy. At the end of August 2018, the Society's bank balance was £100,225. In 2017 the Society made a profit of £8,036. This was largely due to the success of the Manchester ASM. A principle of the Society is to break even (while acknowledging that some years a surplus may be made while others there may be a loss). At this year's ASM fees have been held at last year's levels.

Major investments during 2017 were the Brexit meeting, skills training, and the mentoring scheme. We also experienced an increase in spending on free ASM places (these expenses vary according to the ASM location and the number of successful applicants who end up taking a place).

Committee expenses £5,994, an increase on the year before. Committee expenses vary depending on locations of members. In previous years we have encouraged members to dial in but have learned that more value is often gained from having committee members attend physically (wherever convenient for them). Increased costs are also down to the introduction of the January away day. This replaces the usual half-day committee meeting and allows more time and space to consider future direction of the society in addition to day-to-day business. For example, this year's away day has prompted a members' audit (discussed below) and a welfare statement released by the ECR sub-committee.

Other expenditure during 2017 included the invaluable clerical and administrative support provided by Hg3 to the SSM committee, which was slightly down on 2016.

In 2018 thus far investments have continued according to the Society's objectives, one aim of which is to invest in our members across their careers. We continue to invest in our mentorship scheme, which has trained-up 41 mentors, with 33 mentees now being mentored. We have increased investment in the ECR and MCR ASM workshops, acknowledging the reported benefits from our members in past years. The new ASM layout (mid-morning start on the Wednesday) means that the accommodation expenses for ASM free places will increase this year but we consider this a worthwhile investment.

The second aim of the SSM strategy is to support scientific rigour. Due to a restructuring of the committee there was no call for one-day events or workshops in 2018. However, we plan to release a call shortly after the conclusion of the ASM and will consider the reduced investment in 2018 when funding applications next year. Please consider applying and / or encourage others. We will also be funding a one day event in Dublin, to increase visibility of the Society in Ireland and provide opportunities for networking and collaboration among population health researchers.

The official change of the Society's name provides an opportunity to invest in changes to the website and the ways in which we communicate with our members. A members' survey, which will be circulated shortly after the ASM, is being used to build upon the Society's third and fourth objectives in particular: to provide an expert voice for population health and to foster and facilitate multidisciplinary collaboration. We ask you to please participate!

Finally, the way that Hg3 is able to contact members on our behalf has changed since the introduction of the GDPR earlier this year; importantly they will be unable to chase those whose membership has lapsed if agreement to be contacted has not been provided. We are working with Hg3 to minimise any impact on membership rates going forward. However we urge members to check that they have consented to be contacted by Hg3 by logging into their SSM membership account.

Thanks

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