

# **SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE**

## **Annual General Meeting for 2021**

To be held at Faraday Building, Swansea University Singleton Park Campus

Friday 1 July 2022 13:15-14:15 (UK time)

### **AGENDA**

#### **1. Apologies**

#### **2. Approval of Minutes of Last AGM**

#### **3. Chair's Reports and Changes to Constitution**

- a. Outgoing Chair's Report (Rosemary Cresswell)
- b. Incoming Chair's Report (Lisa Smith)
- c. For Discussion: Changes to Constitution (Rosemary Cresswell & Lisa Smith)

#### **4. Trustees' Report and Accounts, *including***

- a. Membership (Claire Jones)
- b. Conferences (Samiksha Sehrawat)
- c. Bursaries (A. Greenwood/R. McKay, Treasurer)
- d. Roy Porter Prize 2021 – winner tba at meeting (Rebecca Wynter)
- e. Web and Social Media (Clare Hickman)
- f. Independent Examiner's Report (provided by Paul Cowham)
- g. Financial Report (A. Greenwood/R. McKay, Treasurer)

#### **Publications**

#### **5. *SHM* Editorial Team Reports** (Co-Editors, Journal)

#### **6. Book Series Report** (Co-Editors, Book Series)

#### **7. *Gazette* Editor's Report** (Laura Kelly)

#### **Other Reports**

#### **8. Policy Officer's Report** (Richard McKay)

#### **9. Executive Committee Membership** (Claire Jones, Secretary)

- a) Members stepping down – V. Bates; C. Dobbing; C. Hickman; L. Kelly; A. Greenwood
- b) Nominations for Membership of the EC (received so far to be finalised at meeting):  
Beatriz Pichel, proposed by Rebecca Wynter and seconded by Claire Jones  
(Re-election to EC) Stephen Mawdsley, proposed by Anna Greenwood, seconded by Claire Jones; Rebecca Wynter, proposed by Claire Jones and seconded by Jonathan Reinarz.

#### **10. AOB**

#### **11. Date of Future Meeting**

\*\*Please note that the posts of Postgraduate/Early Career and EDI officers have been vacant for most of 2021 (EDI officer role now filled by co-opted EC member in 2022).

## **SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE**

### **Annual General Meeting for 2020**

Held online owing to continued Covid-19 restrictions, 24 June 2021

#### **MINUTES**

**Attending:** Rosemary Cresswell (Chair), Victoria Bates (Secretary), Anna Greenwood (Treasurer); Rima Apple, David Cantor, Flurin Condrau, Helen Goodman, Janet Greenlees, Anne Hanley, Vanessa Heggie, Claire Jones, Luis Junguerva, Laura Kelly, Tereza Kopecka, Elaine Leong, Richard McKay, Rebecca Martin, Clement Masakure, Stephen Mawdsley, Ian Miller, Alex Mold, Heather Perry, Justine Pick (Exec Sec and minutes), Samiksha Sehrawat, Lisa Smith, Rebecca Wynter

#### **1. Apologies**

Elma Brenner, Christoph Gradmann, Clare Hickman.

#### **2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting**

Approved - any subsequent corrections to be sent to VB and Exec. Secretary.

#### **3. Chair's Report**

(Rosemary Cresswell)

After welcome comments and introductions RC explained the purpose of AGM – the Society is required to present accounts and a Trustees' report to members each year, and these form the basis of our annual submission to the Charity Commission. Today we are reporting on 2020.

We had hoped last year when we rescheduled our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference in Swansea that we would be meeting in person this week. The theme of the anniversary conference is 'resilience' and I want to thank Michael Bresalier and the team at Swansea, including Trish Skinner who retired last year, for being so good natured with the arrangements for the conference that one day will happen, hopefully in time for our 52<sup>nd</sup> birthday beach party in South Wales on 29<sup>th</sup> June to 2 July 2022.

In 2020, we tried our hardest as volunteers to contribute to the discussions on COVID. In her role as Webmaster, Anne Hanley quickly collated ideas of publications and historians' public engagement with the epidemic, and this is a resource we can keep expanding on our website. We hosted a COVID webinar which has been recorded and edited so you can still watch it online on our YouTube channel, and we will be hosting another COVID roundtable on 1<sup>st</sup> July thanks to Michael Bresalier's efforts to keep events associated with the Swansea conference going on 2021. This week there are the SSHM2021 Online Seminars, where we will give the opportunity for four of the original

speakers from the Swansea conference to present their work this year. RC thanked people who have left the EC and SSHM editing community, and welcomed those who have joined us. Before our AGM last year, we had quite a change of personnel at the journal, with Trish Skinner leaving us as editor, and later in the year leaving the role of Executive Secretary. We benefited so much from her enthusiasm and expertise and she is very much missed. At the end of the year, we welcomed our new Executive Secretary, Justine Pick, who has experience in both the history of medicine and the charity sector and we have been very blessed by her wishing to join us with her expertise, and we long to meet her in person when we can have meetings in person. At the journal, we also welcomed Ian Miller as Vanessa Heggie moved from her role as Book Reviews editor to joining the EC, and we recruited Flurin Condrau and Elma Brenner as co-editors in 2020. Harry Wu will join the team on 1 July as Dora Vargha steps down. We would like to thank Dora Vargha for her term of work on the journal, and I would particularly and personally like to thank her for her wise support in our responses to the impact of the Plan S open access agenda, especially the impact on other European academics and those further afield. There'll be more from the journal editors in their own report.

In connection with the journal, we have continued our discussion with Oxford University Press on the response to Plan S, and in 2020 Trish and I compiled the EC's response to the UKRI consultation. Please do ask any questions when we get to the Policy report, as our editorial board is coming up soon and is an opportunity for us to discuss any questions together as a journal, Society and publisher. Please also look out for the advert for co-editor of our book series which is being circulated now with a deadline in September. Elaine Leong joined us in 2020 as a third editor, to enhance our ability to attract medieval and early modern book proposals. After 13 years of service, we are very sad to announce that Keir Waddington will be leaving the series. His term on the EC predates this, and his wisdom and knowledge of the long history of the Society will be very much missed. We hope he will pop along from Cardiff to Swansea to thank him in person for his extraordinary dedication to SSHM and in mentoring so many scholars, including myself, in writing their books. Over the summer, we'll also be advertising some internships with honoraria to work on some valuable aspects of our work in detail, including our activities in response to our Statement Against Racism and in response to COVID-19. Please look out for these opportunities.

We have a proposal for a small change to the constitution which we would like your vote on. According to our constitution, journal editors are appointed for three years, renewable for a term. Since before my time as Chair, new editors have been appointed for four years. This is important because of the length of time in learning the role and for continuity. We also have four co-editors and

a book reviews editor now, with the co-editors sharing the task of a year each of their term as managing editor, so this shares the responsibility evenly. So please can we replace three years with four in the constitution to formalise this? [A vote was taken by show of hands – unanimous to accept change in constitution.

#### **4. Trustees' Report and Accounts, *including***

h. Membership (Victoria Bates for Claire Jones)

VB noted the membership statistics for 2020. There was a small decrease in membership as a consequence of the pandemic and not having any conferences, but this is considered a temporary dip and not a worrying trend.

i. Conferences (Samiksha Sehrawat)

Conferences supported in 2020 are listed in the Annual Report. A number of awards have been carried over to 2021 as many conferences postponed and some have had no option but to host online. SS reported that postponed conference at Swansea will now take place between 29 June - 2 July 2022. SSHM2024 will be held at Strathclyde. SS reminded attendees of the process to apply for funds, which are on the website, and encouraged applicants to build diversity and community into their applications. We have a separate funding stream to help people travel to the conferences. Also, will be happy to receive expressions of interest for hosting SSHM2026.

j. Bursaries (Anna Greenwood, Treasurer)

AG noted the amount of travel bursaries awarded in 2020 but most had not yet been claimed due to postponement of SSHM2020. The Society intends to carry over the awards to the 2022 conference. She also explained about Emergency Bursaries given this year in an attempt to help PGR/ECR members who may have been impacted by the pandemic.

k. Roy Porter Prize 2019 (Rebecca Wynter)

The winner of the 2020 Prize was formally announced: John Beales whose PhD is with Keele University and the Imperial War Museums. The winning essay was titled: 'Of One Blood?' Challenging perceptions of wartime blood donor motivation and behaviour: a case study of Bristol and the South West, 1939-1945'. Those shortlisted were: Marsha Wubbles, a Wellcome-funded student at the University of Exeter, with 'A Weighty Matter: understanding fatness, weight-watching and the 'healthful Standard' in eighteenth-Century England'; and Lauren Killingsworth, Yale University, "'With Maps Illustrative of the Disease": Medical Cartography in Late Nineteenth-Century Colonial India'. Congratulations to John, Marsha and Lauren. We received ten entries for the competition. Considering the pandemic, this is a robust number, and I'd like to congratulate all the entrants who worked so hard to submit their work. This is the first year that the accolade enhancements have been awarded, which means that on top of £500 prize

money, the winner has been offered the opportunity to present a keynote at Swansea 2022 (as well as financial support for doing so). From this year, those shortlisted receive a smaller amount of prize money. Prize certificates and mentoring have also been offered. As per the breakdown of submissions in the report there is a need to encourage entries from more students/ECRs outside of the UK and post-92 institutions.

Thanks were extended to those who served on the judging panel, particularly during such a challenging year, and to the Executive Secretary for administrative support. RC added her congratulations to the winner and thanked RW for her mentoring of entrants for submission to the journal.

l. Web and Social Media (Anne Hanley)

AH reported statistics and that most visitors to the website engaged with the whole site rather than just the 'home' page, with most visits being made to 'History of Epidemics', 'Prizes' and 'Upcoming Events'. SSHM's Twitter following continued to grow. There is a mission plan for the website to be further developed and VH and LS in their roles as Publicity and Digital Strategy will be working with AH on this. Members can get in touch with any comments or ideas for the website and social media.

m. Independent Examiner's Report (provided by Paul Cowham)  
Received.

n. Financial Report (Anna Greenwood, Treasurer)

AG thanked JP for her support in preparing the annual accounts. The amount of liabilities carrying over from 2020 is higher than usual due to conference awards for conferences that were postponed because of the pandemic. The awards will be honoured should the conferences go ahead at a later date. Due to less expenditure overall in 2020 the Society has been advised by to look at ways of spending accumulated reserves in line with the charity objectives, hence the planned internships referred to in the Chair's report. The Society is in a good financial position. There is still some uncertainty about the future in terms of journal income, but overall, in a good financial position in the short to medium term. The Trustees' Annual Report was approved without opposition by those at the meeting, and signing in the presence of the auditor will take place after the meeting.

## **Publications**

### **5. SHM Editorial Team Reports** (Co-Editors, Journal)

FC reported on behalf of the entire team, who at the end of 2020 were Christoph Gradmann, Flurin Condrau, Elma Brenna, Dora Vargha. During the year there had been changes in co-editors and with

staff in the virtual office at Oxford University Press, however, the journal has not suffered and 2020 was a busy year with 122 original manuscripts submitted making it the strongest year of the last five. As announced in the Chair's report, there will be a further period of transition with the stepping down of Dora Vargha and Harry Wu joining the co-editorial team from July. An extended page budget is slowly helping to reduce the number of accepted articles in the pipeline. Finding reviewers is never easy and has become more challenging under pandemic conditions with home working and schooling and also job insecurity and temporary contracts. Plan S remains a dynamic situation and FC pointed out particular difficulties outside of the UK. For example, scholars in Switzerland cannot currently publish (unless funding OA themselves), as there is currently no deal in place with Swiss institutions.

IM on Book Reviews – 85 reviews are waiting to be published but due to pressures of the pandemic a lot have not been submitted. There has been a noticeable decline in the number of books being published as a consequence of the pandemic and increasing prevalence of publishers only offering digital copies for review, often with a limited access time. This is considered disadvantageous and a concern for the actual practice of book reviews. RC added that authors should speak to publishers about this issue and ask that hard copies are sent out for review.

## **6. Book Series Report**

(Co-Editors, Book Series)

DC presented the report on behalf of co-editors. The *Social Histories of Medicine* series published by Manchester University press is currently at 21 books with 3 in press. As announced by the Chair, Keir Waddington, editor for Monographs is stepping down and DC expressed gratitude for all his years in the role. An advertisement for a new co-editor has just been released with a deadline for applications in September 2021. EL wanted to thank DC and KW for all their guidance and support in her first year as book series co-editor.

## **7. Gazette Editor's Report**

(Laura Kelly)

LK confirmed, that as per the decision at the last AGM, the *Gazette* has been produced in a digital format only. There were four issues in 2020, distributed via the Society's mailing list but also accessible via the website. Digital PDFs are uploaded to the British Library for storage on their system.

## **Other Reports**

### **8. Policy Officer's Report**

(Richard McKay)

RM described his role as lending support to promote SSHM to other societies, work on initiatives and make contributions to consultations. In particular, he wanted to thank RC for all her work on the UKRI Open Access consultation. RC also added her thanks to former Executive Secretary, Trish

Skinner, for all her assistance in collating information and also to Lisa Smith for all her support. RM added that it is still a dynamic situation as the UKRI review is still ongoing and the eligibility criteria for publishing in *SHM* to comply with Wellcome's Plan S- open access policy is still under debate with OUP.

**9. Postgraduate and Early Career Officer's Report** (Cara Dobbing)

RC gave a verbal report on CD's behalf and the Emergency Bursary Scheme are detailed in the Trustee's report.

**10. EDI Officer's Report** (Clare Hickman)

Report received and given by the Chair in CH's absence.

**11. Executive Committee Membership** (Victoria Bates, Secretary)

a) Members stepping down – none.

b) Nominations for Membership of the EC and Re-Elections: Clare Hickman – Re-Election to the EC, proposed by Rebecca Wynter, seconded by Victoria Bates; Richard McKay - Re-Election to the EC, proposed by Claire Jones, seconded by Victoria Bates; Samiksha Sehrawat – Re-Election to the EC, proposed by Gayle Davis, seconded by Anne Hanley.

VB invited those present to approve the nominations via an online poll. All were passed by a majority. RC thanked CH, RM and SS for continuing in their EC roles.

c) Motion to extend current term of office for Society Officers (proposed by Keir Waddington at previous EC meeting).

VB explained that the current term of office for all officers' is due to end in November, due to the disruption of the pandemic and the need for potential new officers to shadow the current ones, a motion was suggested that the term of office be extended until the next AGM. VB invited those present to approve by a show of hands, unanimously accepted.

**12. AOB**

None raised.

**13. Date of Future Meeting**

The next AGM is provisionally scheduled to be held between 29 June and 2 July 2022 at the SSHM2022 Conference at Swansea University.



## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: 01.01.2021 Period start date To: 31.12.2021 Period end date

Charity name: Society for the Social History of Medicine

Charity registration number: 278414

### Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objects of the Society set out in its Constitution are to advance the education of the public in the social history of medicine and in pursuance of that purpose to promote research and disseminate the results.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>The charity's main activities in furtherance of its objects are the editing and production of a journal, <i>Social History of Medicine</i> <a href="https://academic.oup.com/shm">https://academic.oup.com/shm</a> which includes research articles and book reviews. Also, the production of a series of scholarly books, <i>Social Histories of Medicine</i> <a href="https://manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/series/social-histories-of-medicine/">https://manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/series/social-histories-of-medicine/</a> . The Society maintains an international membership, holds a biennial conference and sponsors selected other relevant scholarly conferences. The Society also represents the subject in relevant policy-making bodies. Publication in our outlets and attendance at conferences is open to non-members. Membership for students and the unwaged is subsidized with the added benefit of reduced conference charges. Support is also offered through bursaries for students and early career members to attend relevant conferences. With its activities the Society aims to foster understanding for and raise the profile of the social history of medicine both in the UK and internationally. This includes lobbying activities relevant to members, and more broadly, history of medicine as a discipline, and responding to issues in relation to the strategies of relevant funding bodies such as the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Economic and Social Research Council or the</p>

		Wellcome Trust. Funds raised from sales of the journal and other relevant publications enable the trustees to fund its commitments and maintain a financial reserve.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees of the charity have paid due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit. All trustees of the Society are volunteers. They are supported by paid, part-time administrative support which was put in place in April 2018.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

### Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider	Para 1.20	In 2021 the charity endeavoured to continue its usual activities; however, some activities continued to be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Society's bi-annual conference (and 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemoration) that was postponed in 2020 could not be re-scheduled for 2021 (it will take place in 2022). The Society could continue as usual with publication activities but there was little call to draw on the charity's reserves for conference grants and travel bursaries as conferences were either

<p>benefits to society as a whole.</p>		<p>cancelled or postponed due to the pandemic.</p> <p><b>Membership</b></p> <p>OUP Reports indicate that there were 236 members at the end of 2021, which is down on the previous year (292 members in 2020). The Covid pandemic with restrictions has prevented in person conferences which are useful in attracting new members. In terms of a breakdown for the membership figures for 2021, student membership remains consistent and forms 30% (30.3% in 2020; 38.7% in 2019; 30.7% in 2018) while individual membership figures are at 57% (55.5% 2020; 49.6% in 2019; 57.2% in 2018). The majority of our members continue to come from the UK at 58% (58.7% in 2020; 59.5% in 2019; 53.9% in 2018) while most of the remaining members are from North America at 16% (11.8% in 2020; 11.7% in 2019; 14.4% in 2018). European membership stands at 13% (15% in 2020; 14% in 2019; 14% in 2018).</p> <p>The membership rates for 2021 were: Student/Reduced: £26.00, \$51.00, €39.00. Regular: £48.00, \$97.00, €73.00. We have two members who do not subscribe via OUP and their payments are recorded in the accounts. From 2023 there will be a new membership rate with online only access to the journal.</p> <p><b>Publications</b></p> <p>The Society's journal <i>Social History of Medicine</i> has seen a slightly decreased number of submissions with 180 in 2021 (196 in 2020). The Society published 4 issues of the journal in 2021 with a total of 55 articles (56 in 2020) and a higher number of book reviews at 65 (58 in 2020), due to increased page allowance.</p> <p>The book series with Manchester University Press, <i>Social Histories of Medicine</i> continues to prosper with a total of 25 books and 2 in press. This year's publications were:</p>
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Axel C. Hüntelmann and Oliver Falk (eds.) *Accounting for health. Calculation, paperwork and medicine, 1500–2000.* (January 2021).

Anne Marie Rafferty, Marguerite Dupree and Fay Bound Alberti (eds.) *Germs and governance: The past, present and future of hospital infection, prevention and control.* (March 2021).

Elma Brenner and François-Olivier Touati (eds.) *Leprosy and identity in the Middle Ages. From England to the Mediterranean.* (April 2021).

Anne Hanley and Jessica Meyer (eds.) *Patient voices in Britain, 1840–1948.* (September 2021).

Four digital issues of the Society's *Gazette* were produced and distributed via email to members and made available on the Society website.

#### **Conferences/Workshops**

The Society invites applications for conference funding three times a year.

Only one SSHM grant totalling £250 was awarded in 2021 to support the following conference:

*Emotion, Embodiment and the Everyday, c. 1500-1800*, Oxford, December 2021

This was due to the continuing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic with restrictions. The society is still holding £1013 of funds awarded in 2020 for conferences that could not take place and will honour these awards for the re-scheduled events in 2022.

#### **Student and early career travel bursaries**

There were no travel bursaries awarded in 2021 due to Covid pandemic and restrictions with hardly any in-person conferences taking place. The Society is still holding £4460 of funds for travel bursaries awarded for the Society's postponed biennial conference in 2020. The Society will honour these awards for the re-scheduled conference in July 2022.

### ***Postgraduate Support and Training***

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Society awarded a small number of Emergency Bursaries for PhD students and early career researchers who may have been impacted by the pandemic. A total of £195 was awarded in 2021 for the purchase of books and digital research material.

### ***Prize winners***

The Society awards an annual prize, the Roy Porter Essay Prize worth £500, for the best original unpublished essay in the social history of medicine. In 2021 the Society also awarded a further £200 (2 x £100) as prizes for short listed essays.

The 2020 Roy Porter Essay Prize winner, as announced at the Society's AGM in 2021, was John Beales (Keele University and the Imperial War Museums). The winning essay was titled: 'Of One Blood?' Challenging perceptions of wartime blood donor motivation and behaviour: a case study of Bristol and the South West, 1939-1945'.

A further two entrants also received recognition: Marsha Wubbles, (Wellcome-funded student at the University of Exeter), with 'A Weighty Matter: understanding fatness, weight-watching and the 'healthful Standard' in eighteenth-Century England'; and Lauren Killingsworth, (Yale University), "'With Maps Illustrative of the Disease": Medical Cartography in Late Nineteenth-Century Colonial India'.

There was a total of ten entrants.

The winner of the 2021 Roy Porter Essay Prize will be announced at the AGM in July 2022.

### ***Web and Social Media***

Our website and social media continue to perform well. The website continues to have international reach, particularly to North America. Visitors to the website engaged with the whole site rather than just the 'home' page. However, the most visited page was 'Home', followed by 'Prizes' and

		<p>the 'Journal'. The viewing statistics for 2021 were 21,420 views from 10,225 visitors. A decrease in the number of visitors to the website comparable to 2020 figures (28,231 views and 12,708). However, social media has continued to grow, with Twitter followers at 6429 followers (up from 5814) and Facebook at 3218 followers (up from 3100).</p>
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**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

<p>Achievements against objectives set</p>	<p>Para 1.41</p>	<p>In October 2021 the society applied for two grants from the Wellcome Trust. One for £25,000 to fund Society events (over 48 months). Our proposed programme of new and innovative events will allow us to begin new areas of work in the areas of anti-racism, mid-career support, and discussions about career</p> <p>precarity. Wellcome funds will enable bringing scholars together for physical meetings is essential to create the safe space needed for such sensitive discussions as anti-racism, facilitated by a clinical professional and academics experienced in this area, and regarding concerns about careers. The application was successful and grant funds are administered via the University of Strathclyde.</p> <p>Another grant application for £25,000 is to support the objective of directing funding to networking and networked events. These serial activities promise the space to be both innovative and sustained; a space that has often been limited in the field of the history of medicine and health. What these sustained conversations will do is provide room for creativity and thinking, offering transformative scholarship and assuredly facilitating links and work that would otherwise prove impossible, especially due to our current availability of £1500 per conference funding application, limited so as to support as many activities as possible. The Society plans to fund between four and seven networks with a maximum of £6000 per award, with two rounds of applications for support in 2022 and 2023. This</p>
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		application was also successful and will also be financially administered through the University of Strathclyde.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity's assets increased during 2021, amounting to £125,531 in cash reserves at the end of the period. This is due to not being able to support conferences through funding and travel bursaries for students/early career as a consequence of pandemic restrictions.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>The Society has a current policy of holding reserves to cover one year's cover cash flow requirements and for any potential gaps in income. In addition extra reserves are being held should the running of the journal be affected as a consequence of Plan S and publishers' commitment to transitioning their journals to open access through the Transformative Journal model <a href="https://www.coalition-s.org/plan-s-compliant-transformative-journals/">https://www.coalition-s.org/plan-s-compliant-transformative-journals/</a> The EC has set a total reserve of £60,000 until the impact is clear.</p> <p>Reserves are held in a savings account. The trustees recognise that the current level of reserves are higher than the set amount, due to the impact pandemic restrictions and are exploring ways of utilising excess reserves. From discussions at the 2020 AGM and at EC meetings, plans have been made to direct excess reserves towards more support to early career scholars and</p>

		<p>offer paid internships within the Society to support work to address issues of inclusivity and diversity in the field of the social history of medicine. Discussions and further proposals will be put forward in 2022.</p> <p>One new initiative from the discussions is the implementation of a book development prize (2 x £2000 prizes per year) for five years starting in 2022 to assist scholars and encourage the forming of book proposals in the social history of medicine.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£119,208
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	<p>The trustees have reviewed major risks. Procedures are in place to manage these risks. Income flow has been fairly steady over recent years, and as the Society does not have employees, risks are limited.</p> <p>Issues arising are discussed during Executive Committee meetings. The Committee meets three times per year.</p>

**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The charity is almost wholly reliant on the income generated by its journal and other publications. As detailed above, we re-invest much of this into promoting the subject through support for conferences and individual researchers.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	The charity was formed by a written Constitution, which was last updated in 2012 and is available on the SSHM website <a href="https://sshm.org/portfolio/the-society/">https://sshm.org/portfolio/the-society/</a>
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	The charity is governed by its trustees, the elected members of the Executive Committee (EC), which meets at least three times a year.
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	The Chairperson and other officers are elected by the EC from their members. EC members must be members of the Society and are elected by the membership and serve a term of three years. The Officers of the Society are the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and tenure of office is three years in each instance. Office holders may, at the end of their term of office, complete their term of EC membership. Office holders may also complete their tenure of office even if their elected period of membership of the Executive Committee has expired. Candidates for EC must be proposed and seconded by other members of the Society. The journal and book series editors are <i>ex officio</i> members of the EC (without voting rights) and are not trustees of the charity.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	New Executive Committee members are directed to Charity Commission's guide, The Essential Trustee (CC3) which explains the main legal responsibilities trustees have.  Also, to the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) as a suggested resource to find out more about becoming a charity trustee.
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The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Society for the Social History of Medicine
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	278414
Charity's principal address	B45 Humanities, Dept of History University of Nottingham Nottingham NG7 2RD

## Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Dr Rosemary Cresswell	Chair		
2	Dr Victoria Bates	Secretary		
3	Dr Anna Greenwood	Treasurer		
4	Dr Anne Hanley	EC Member	Stepped down 1 December 2021	
5	Dr Laura Kelly	EC Member		
6	Dr Cara Dobbing	EC Member		
7	Dr Rebecca Wynter	EC Member		
8	Dr Clare Hickman	EC Member	Re-elected 24 June 2021	
9	Dr Richard McKay	EC Member	Re-elected 24 June 2021	
10	Dr Stephen Mawdsley	EC Member		
11	Dr Samiksha Sehrawat	EC Member	Re-elected 24 June 2021	
12	Dr Lisa Smith	EC Member		

13	Dr Vanessa Heggie	EC Member		
14	Dr Claire Jones	EC Member		
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

<b>Director name</b>		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>	

### Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
<b>Financial</b>	Paul Cowham, MA, FCA, DChA	Green Fish Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham Street, Manchester MS 1LE

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

--

## Other optional information

### Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view the trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable law and the Constitution. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## Declarations

**The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.**

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

<b>Signature(s)</b>		
<b>Full name(s)</b>	Rosemary Cresswell	Anna Greenwood
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Chair	Treasurer
<b>Date</b>	/2022	

# **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

## **TO THE TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE**

I report on the accounts for the charity for the year ended 31st December 2021 which are set out on pages 13 to 14 and have been prepared using the receipts and payments method.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedure laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Paul Cowham FCA DChA  
 Green Fish Resource Centre  
 46 - 50 Oldham St  
 Manchester M4 1LE  
 26 September 2019

**THE SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE**

Receipts and Payments Accounts

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	2021	2020
		Total
<b>Receipts</b>		
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>		
Royalties OUP	24,249	25,471
Royalties Book Series	1,531	1,866
Editorial Retainer	3,768	7,536
Membership Fees	14	14
Conference income	0	0
Donations	0	254
Gift Aid on Donations	0	0
	29,562	35,141
<b>Investment income</b>		
Interest	7	67
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>29,569</b>	<b>35,208</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Administration - Exec Secretary	3,406	4,166
Honoraria <i>SHM</i> Co-Editors	5,700	4,800
Editorial Assistants' Fees	600	165
Editorial Office Expenses (postage etc)	727	1,172
Editorial Board Meeting Expenses	0	0
Book Series Editorial Expenses	0	0
Executive Cttee Meeting Expenses	0	1,065
Website & Dropbox	250	291
Gazette, flyers, publicity	196	1,158
	10,879	12,817
Conference Grants	0	1,917
Bursaries	350	1,451

Essay Prize	700	1,000
	1050	4,368
Independent Examination	550	550
Bank Charges	123	123
Miscellaneous	0	600
	673	1,273
<b>Total Payments</b>	12,602	18,458
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	16,967	16,750
Bank+cash brought forward	108,564	91,815
Cash surplus/(deficit) in the year	16,967	16,750
Bank+cash carried forward	125,531	108,565

Please note: all funds are unrestricted funds

## THE SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE

### STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT THE END OF THE PERIOD

	2021	2020
	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible assets	0	0
	0	0
<b>Cash assets</b>		
Bank deposit account	66,441	66,434
Bank current account	59,090	42,131
	125,531	108,565
<b>Net cash assets</b>	125,531	108,565

<b>Net assets</b>	125,531	108,565
<b>Liabilities</b>	6,323	6,983
<b>Total assets at the end of the period</b>	119,208	101,582

Please note: all funds are unrestricted funds.

The charity's assets increased during 2021, bursaries (down by 76% from 2020 figures, which in themselves were 71% down from the previous year). Conference grants were down 100% as no conference grants were awarded due to Covid-19. In total the Society had £125,531 in cash reserves at the end of the period.

The Society needs reserves to cover cash flow requirements and potential gaps in income, as well as to fund future changes in the running of the journal. Reserves are held in a savings account. The trustees judge the current level of reserves to be adequate.

The trustees have reviewed major risks. Procedures are in place to manage these risks. Income flow has been fairly steady over recent years, and as the Society does not have employees, risks are limited. Issues arising are discussed during Executive Committee meetings. The Committee meets three times per year.



**Membership Secretary Report**  
**SSH M 2021 Annual General Meeting**  
**July 2022, Swansea**

**Membership figures**

In December 2021, there were 236 members. This was an improvement on May 2021 (204), perhaps due to the fact that there was more mobility due to easing of Covid restrictions, but again, this seems to be part of a continuous long downward trend (Sept 2020 – 273; May 2020 – 254; see chart). Membership numbers are down on the same time last year and again, on the year before (275 in 2019; 300 in 2018). COVID and the postponement/cancellation of in-person conferences may have played a part recently, but as we know, memberships are declining across academic societies. Membership reminders continue to go out via social media, OUP and Mailchimp lists.

Student membership remained consistent and formed 30% (30.3% in 2020; 38.7% in 2019; 30.7% in 2018) while individual membership figures formed 57% (55.5% 2020; 49.6% in 2019; 57.2% in 2018). The majority of our members continued to come from the UK at 58% (58.7% in 2020; 59.5% in 2019; 53.9% in 2018) while most of the remaining members were from North America and at 16%, this seems to be growing (11.8% in 2020; 11.7% in 2019; 14.4% in 2018). European membership stands at 13% (15% in 2020; 14% in 2019; 14% in 2018). So overall, membership by type and country is consistent.

The membership rates were: Developing countries: £23.00; Student/Reduced: £26.00; Regular: £48.00.

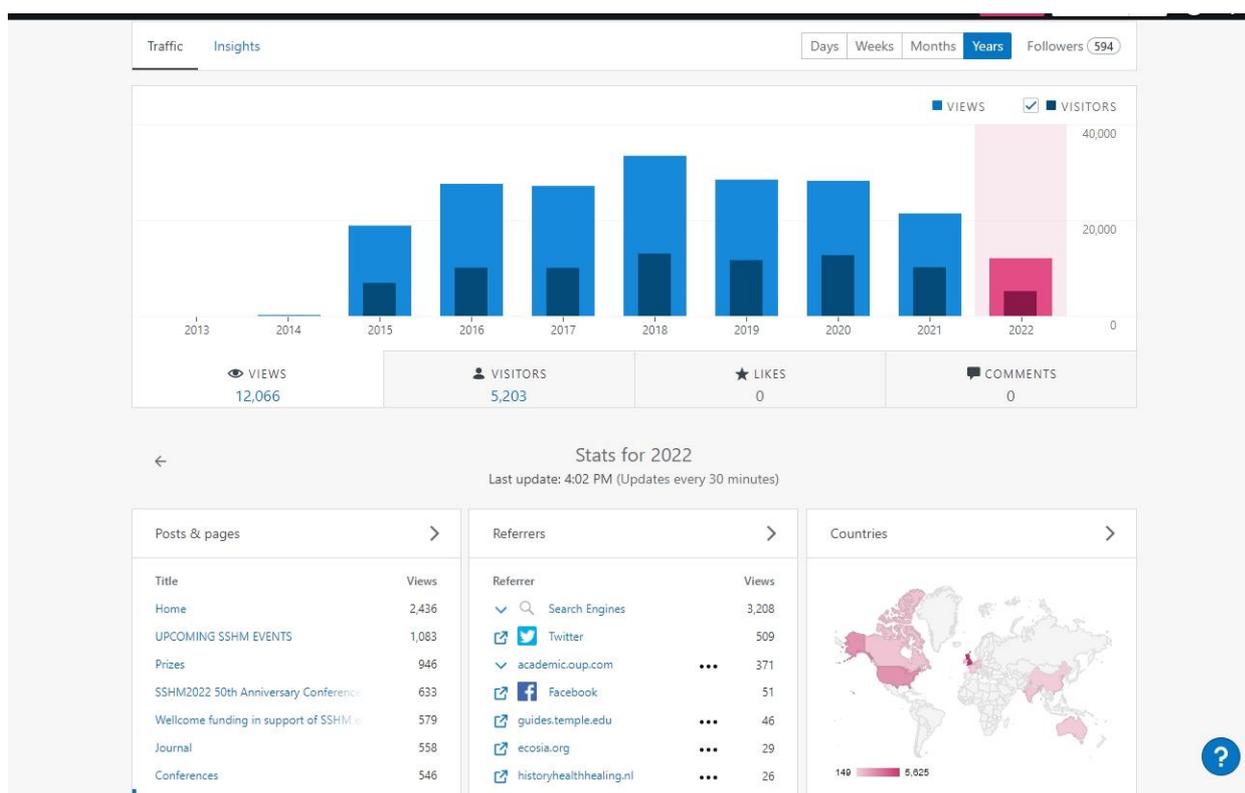
# SSHM AGM Report 2021: Web and Social Media

The website and social media continued to receive good levels of traffic during 2021. There were regular updates with details of online events during Covid both organised by SSHM and the wider medical humanities community.

In particular SSHM’s Twitter following continued to grow – by September 2021 we were at 6429 followers which was an increase from 5814 last year. The website has also maintained an active following with a good international reach, particularly in North America although visiting numbers dropped off somewhat in 2021 presumably in relation to the continued absence of in person events during this period. Most visitors to the website engaged with the whole site rather than just the ‘home’ page and during 2021 we had 21,420 views from 10,225 visitors.

Our Facebook site also had around 3.2K members by the end of the year.

Below is a more recent snapshot of the reach of our website from June 2022 for information:



Clare Hickman

## **Book Review Editor Report**

Throughout 2021, there was a notable drop in medical history book publications, presumably due to factors such as the COVID pandemic and the REF cycle. However, 2022 has seen an ever-growing number of books being published which are eligible for review in *Social History of Medicine* journal.

Fortunately, we have a healthy backlog of reviews awaiting print publication, and a large number of incoming reviews. *Social History of Medicine* journal usually publishes 15 reviews per issue (amounting to 60 per year). This has been the case in the period June 2021 – June 2022. We have 85 reviews awaiting print publication which have already been published in advance access format. We have 17 incoming reviews which have been commissioned since June 2022. This is additional to 41 reviews commissioned between February 2020 and June 2022 which have still to be submitted. (Please note – the book review editor is doubtful that some of these older reviews will be submitted).

While things look generally healthy, it is proving increasingly difficult to assign books to authors, presumably for reasons such as the increasing business of academic life, workloads and other commitments. Even high-quality and thematically appealing books which would once have easily found a home can remain unassigned as potential reviewers decline the review invitation. Access to print copies has also been restricted by some publishers (Palgrave Macmillan, Routledge, Amsterdam University Press). The book review editor considers sending e-copies (often with 6 or 12 month access restrictions) disadvantageous to our authors/book reviewers, and we currently maintain a policy of not sending e-books to reviewers unless specifically requested (which happens only occasionally).

To help resolve these issues, the book review editor has successfully asked Oxford University Press to offer a 6-month, rather than 3-month, submission deadline which is more realistic and will hopefully persuade authors to write book reviews for us. Book review editor also adopts a flexible approach to missed deadlines and extension requests.

Throughout 2021-22, a number of proofing issues began to occur. The book review editor has worked with Oxford University Press production team to ensure a system is in place to ensure that all book information (e.g. ISBNs) are presented correctly and consistently, while also ensuring that proofs are sent to authors, rather than editors only.

Rebecca Watterson remains appointed as book review editor assistant.

Ian Miller  
Book Review Editor  
06 June 2022

***Social Histories of Medicine***  
**Book Series with Manchester University Press**

<http://www.manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/series/social-histories-of-medicine/>

Editors' Report for 2021  
SSHM AGM Meeting 1 July 2022

David Cantor, Anne Hanley, and Elaine Leong

*Social Histories of Medicine* published by Manchester University Press continues to grow, though the numbers of new submissions have dropped because of COVID-19: 26 books were published by the end of 2022 and 2 were in press.

The major news of 2001 was that Keir Waddington resigned in June after 13 years as co-editor of the series and its forerunner series with Pickering and Chatto, leaving Elaine Leong and David Cantor as the series coeditors. Both Elaine and David would like to thank Keir for his work on the series, as a colleague and mentor, and for helping to build *Social Histories of Medicine* into one of the leading English-language history of medicine book series. During his tenure, Keir was responsible for some 23 outstanding monographs, and our hope is that we and the new co-editor (below) will build on Keir's success and broaden and strengthen the appeal of the series further. David took over responsibility for modern monographs, alongside his then existing responsibilities as series editor of the modern edited volumes.

Following Keir's resignation, the rump co-editors developed three initiatives to build on his contributions: 1) advertising for a replacement co-editor, 2) developing a plan for a book proposal prize, and 3) developing a proposal for a series editorial board.

- 1) Anne Hanley was appointed as a co-editor of the series to replace Keir, looking after the modern period together with David Cantor. Anne's appointment took place in late 2021, and consequently there is little to report for that year.
- 2) The book development prize was approved by the EC, with the first competition planned for 2022. Two prizes of £2000.00 each will be awarded to proposals contracted in 2022 in the book series, *Social Histories of Medicine*, published by Manchester University Press (MUP) for the SSHM. The deadline for applications is 31 December 2022. For further details see: <https://sshm.org/book-prize/> Please encourage colleagues to apply for this prize. The prize is an annual prize, so those not eligible for 2022 are also encouraged to apply in subsequent years.
- 3) The creation of an editorial board was approved by the EC, and the editors began a search for its first members. It is planned that the board will include up to 12 members, including 2 ex officio members, one from the EC and one from the Journal.

**Action requested:** We request that the AGM approve a modification to the Society's constitution to allow the creation of this board.

*Other news:*

COVID-19 continued to disrupt the flow of manuscripts to the series, slowing both the signing of new commissions and the completion of contracted manuscripts. On the monographs (modern) side, the flow had more-or-less stopped by the time that Keir left, perhaps also due to post-REF exhaustion on the part of

authors. We, however, began to see the first glimmer of revival with several proposals/manuscripts going into the review process. Our hope is that things will continue to improve in 2022 as the pandemic begins to subside in Europe, North America, and other places, and the post-REF void begins to pass.

8 September 2021, European Association for the History of Medicine and Health Biennial Conference: Elaine, David and Tom Dark (our previous commissioning editor at MUP standing in for Meredith Carroll) participated in a session chaired by Cara Dobbing “Getting Published: From Thesis to Monograph.”

### **Early Modern**

Elaine Leong

Since the past report, I’ve continued to have conversations with scholars about potential monographs and have approached a few conference panels and/or workshop organizers about possible edited volumes. I have attended conferences (RSA, AAHM, HSS etc.) to scope possible book projects and to raise the visibility of the book series amongst premodern historians of medicine.

- One full manuscript in review. Several other manuscripts/proposals are expected in 2022.

### **Modern Period**

David Cantor

Following Keir’s resignation, I took over the modern monographs, in addition to my existing responsibilities for edited modern volumes. In 2021 two monographs went into review, and two proposals for monographs went out for external review. Several other manuscripts/monograph proposals were in the pipeline, though some had been in the pipeline for a while.

The edited modern part of the series was in good health in 2021, though the medium-term future looked less rosy with a slowing down of submissions in part because of the pandemic. The hope is that this will be a temporary slow-down, and that numbers will bounce back as the pandemic subsides, and with the appointment of Anne Hanley as the new co-editor.

At the end of the year, the status of the books for which I am responsible was as follows:

- **Under contract:**
  - **Six** full manuscripts in review: 2 monographs and 4 edited volumes.
  - **One** proposal for an edited volume: publication subject to *external* review of the full manuscript.
- **Pre-contract:**
  - **Two** proposals for monographs in review. ○ Several other manuscripts/proposals were expected in 2022

Anne Hanley

As Anne only started in December 2021, there is no report on her part of the series.

BOOKS IN THE SERIES

As of December 2021

**Published.**

1. George Campbell Gosling, *Payment and philanthropy in British healthcare, 1918–48*, February 2017.
2. Bonnie Evans, *The metamorphosis of autism. A history of child development in Britain*, February 2017.
3. Stuart Blume, Christine Holmberg, and Paul Greenough (eds.), *The politics of vaccination. A global history*, March 2017.
4. Stephen Snelders, *Leprosy and colonialism. Suriname under Dutch rule, 1750–1950*, May 2017.
5. Sandra Cavallo and Tessa Storey (eds.) *Conserving health in early modern culture. Bodies and environments in Italy and England*, July 2017.
6. Alannah Tomkins, *Medical misadventure in an age of professionalisation, 1780–1890*, July 2017.
7. Julian Simpson, *Migrant architects of the NHS: South Asian doctors and the reinvention of British general practice (1940s-1980s)*. February 2018. (Paperback: March 2020)
8. John Chircop and Francisco Javier Martinez (eds.) *Mediterranean quarantines, 1750-1914*. March 2018.
9. Steven King, *Sickness, medical welfare and the English poor, 1750-1834*. May 2018.
10. Joris Vandendriessche, *Medical societies and scientific culture in nineteenth-century Belgium*. September 2018.
11. Gareth Millward, *Vaccinating Britain: Mass vaccination and the public since the Second World War*. January 2019.
12. Martin Moore, *Managing diabetes, managing medicine. Chronic disease and clinical bureaucracy in post-war Britain*. March 2019.
13. James Moran, *Madness on trial: A transatlantic history of English civil law and lunacy*. May 2019. (Paperback: May 2022)

14. John Cunningham (ed.) *Early modern Ireland and the world of medicine: Practitioners, collectors and contexts*. May 2019.
15. Jill Kirby, *Feeling the strain. A cultural history of stress in twentieth-century Britain*, July 2019. (Paperback: June 2021)
16. Emily Cock, *Rhinoplasty in early modern British medicine and culture. Leading by the nose*. September 2019. (Paperback: January 2022)
17. Solveig Jülich and Sven Widmalm (eds.) *Communicating the history of medicine. Perspectives on audiences and impact*. November 2019.
18. Melissa Dickson, Emilie Taylor-Brown, and Sally Shuttleworth (eds.) *Progress and pathology. Medicine and culture in the nineteenth century*. January 2020.
19. Mark Jackson and Martin D. Moore (eds.) *Balancing the self. Medicine, politics and the regulation of health in the twentieth century*. March 2020.
20. Jean-Paul Gaudillière, Claire Beaudevin, Christoph Gradmann, Anne M. Lovell, and Laurent Pordié (eds.) *Global health and the new world order: Historical and anthropological approaches to a changing regime of governance*. October 2020.
21. Caroline Rusterholz, *Women's medicine. Sex, family planning and British female doctors in transnational perspective, 1920–70*. December 2020.
22. Axel C. Hüntelmann and Oliver Falk (eds.) *Accounting for health. Calculation, paperwork and medicine, 1500–2000*. January 2021.
23. Anne Marie Rafferty, Marguerite Dupree and Fay Bound Alberti (eds.) *Germs and governance: The past, present and future of hospital infection, prevention and control*. March 2021.
24. Elma Brenner and François-Olivier Touati (eds.) *Leprosy and identity in the Middle Ages. From England to the Mediterranean*. April 2021.
25. Anne Hanley and Jessica Meyer (eds.) *Patient voices in Britain, 1840–1948*. September 2021.
26. Joris Vandendriessche and Benoît Majerus (eds.) *Medical histories of Belgium. New narratives on health, care and citizenship in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries*. October 2021.

## **In Press.**

Jennifer Crane and Jane Hand (eds.) *Placards, posters, and prescriptions: Cultural histories of the National Health Service in Britain*. June 2022.

Janet Weston and Hannah J. Elizabeth (eds.) *Histories of HIV/AIDS in Western Europe: New and regional perspectives*, July 2022.

Waltraud Ernst and Thomas Mueller (eds.) *Alcohol, psychiatry and society. Comparative and transnational perspectives, c. 1700-1990s*, October 2022.

### **Gazette editor's report – Laura Kelly**

**June 2022**

There hasn't been too much to report in relation to the *Gazette* in 2022. I would like to note my thanks to Justine who regularly sends me items for inclusion in the *Gazette*. I have been continuing to upload the digital PDFs of the *Gazette* electronically to the British Library for storage on their system. The July 2022 issue will be my final issue as editor, after this a new editor will be taking over.

### **Society for the Social History of Medicine Policy Development Officer's Annual Report 2021**

Richard McKay

I worked with Rosemary Cresswell, Lisa Smith, Elaine Leong, and Justine Pick to submit a letter on behalf of the Society to the Royal College of Physicians. Our aim was to encourage the organisation to reconsider its plans to sell off important rare materials from its library and to offer our expertise in conservation efforts that would preserve the integrity of the College's collections. We received a brief reply, thanking us for our letter but indicating that the College intends to hold open the option of selling off library items in any future "worst-case scenario" as this would, they feel, serve the charity's best interest.

I also collaborated with Rebecca Wynter to prepare a statement on behalf of the Society in support of Goldsmiths staff members under threat of being made redundant, minoritized history, and history in the UK (<https://sshm.org/notices/>).

Professor Andrew Goddard  
President, Royal College of Physicians  
11 St Andrews Place  
Regent's Park  
London  
NW1 4LE

16 April 2021

Dear Professor Goddard,

We are writing in our capacities as Chair, Book Series Editor, Policy Development Officer, and Digital Strategy Officer of the Society for the Social History of Medicine, and on behalf of its Executive Committee and international membership, to express our vociferous opposition to the potential auction of items from the College's rare books collection. We are relieved to learn that immediate plans to auction books have been put on hold; going forward, we would be very willing to offer our guidance as the UK's leading learned society for the history of medicine.

The College's collection represents one of the world's most significant assemblies of rare materials tracing the evolution of medicine and natural knowledge from antiquity to the modern era. The core of the collection, the Dorchester Bequest, was entrusted to the College by the Marquis of Dorchester after most of the College's foundational texts were destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666. At the time, the books were considered to constitute the finest 'philosophical' library in Europe; it was from this generous replenishment that the collection has grown over the centuries.

Our Society opposes the proposed auction of items from the College's rare books collection in the strongest possible terms. If the Royal College of Physicians pursues this plan in the future, we fear that the College will jeopardise its reputation as a responsible custodian of donations and bequests. Furthermore, the College risks irreversibly damaging an important monument of national heritage, undermining international scholarship, and preventing the fullest appreciation of medicine as an ever-evolving discipline combining art and science.

Although the sale of individual books may not, on the surface, seem problematic for the collection as a whole, it is worth considering the difficulties emerging from the dispersal of the collections of Sir Hans Sloane, the eighteenth-century physician. Sloane collected materials with specific purposes in mind—universal knowledge and medical utility—an approach which fell from favour by the nineteenth century, resulting in the decision to break up his collections. Parts of Sloane's museum and library are now spread across the British Library, the British Museum, the Natural History Museum, and the Hunterian Museum—and individual items have travelled even further afield, lost over time through sale and donation around the world.

The diversity of Sloane's library highlights our modern, and falsely sharp, separation of medical and nonmedical subjects. He collected artwork, books, and manuscripts on religion, philosophy or magic, and

books on a range of 'scientific' topics—to Sloane, everything had a potential use when it came to medicine. Like other early modern physicians, he considered medicine as a branch of natural philosophy—a way of understanding the world. Early seventeenth-century physicians looked to astronomy when considering the plague; mid-eighteenth-century physicians looked to shifts in the weather to understand its influence on epidemic disease. Philosophical and religious texts offered insights into morality and character, which could be important for coping with, for example, pain or chronic ailments.

The British Library's efforts to reconstruct Sloane's printed books collection digitally have been invaluable in helping researchers to 'see' the collection as a whole, to identify his wider interests, and to consider how they shaped his medical understanding—or indeed how his medical interests shaped his book collection. The digital catalogue is useful, but it is also clear that even more of Sloane's books were lost, sold, or destroyed over the years—these were typically ones deemed less valuable, because they were marked up or uninteresting for the British Library's priorities.

Although researchers in recent years have begun to realise the importance of reconstructing Sloane's collection in its entirety, it has been a slow and challenging process to determine how the dispersed parts actually fit together. What has become abundantly clear, however, is that the collection is worth far more than the sum of its parts, with potential contemporary uses ranging from identifying materia medica to understanding global warming. The collection as a whole has become necessary for our present-day needs and interests in ways that were unthinkable over a century ago when the decision to disperse the materials was made. There is an immeasurable value for knowledge and scholarship in maintaining a three-hundredand-fifty-year-old donated collection in its entirety, even—or perhaps especially—if those uses are not now immediately obvious.

In summary, breaking up the collection will not only gut an active and valued specialist research library, but will also constitute a severe loss to our national heritage, to history as a discipline, and to contemporary and future knowledge production.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you and your colleagues to permanently shelve the proposed auction of the rare items and to embark on a preservation plan in full consultation with historians, archivists, and other professional cultural custodians. Should you wish to draw upon our expertise in this regard, we would be more than willing to assist.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Rosemary Cresswell, Chair, Society for the Social History of Medicine

Dr Elaine Leong, Editor, *Social Histories of Medicine* Book Series, Society for the Social History of Medicine #

Dr Richard McKay, Policy Development Officer, Society for the Social History of Medicine

Dr Lisa Smith, Digital Strategy Officer, Society for the Social History of Medicine

Registered Charity 278414  
Office email: [sshmexecsec@gmail.com](mailto:sshmexecsec@gmail.com)

### CANDIDATE STATEMENT (for AGM Papers)

Name: Beatriz Pichel	
Institution: De Montfort University	
Proposed by: Rebecca Wynter	Seconded by: Claire Jones
<b>Please explain below why you are interested in becoming a member of the Executive Committee of the Society for the Social History of Medicine. You should not exceed the space on this page, or use a font size smaller than 11.</b>	
<p>I have been a member of the SSHM (intermittently) for several years and have attended the SSHM conferences since 2016. Since my first conference, I have found the SSHM the best organisation to share research on the history of medicine and I would like to play a key role in the expansion of the society's activities. In particular, I have always enjoyed how friendly and inclusive the SSHM events are. As part of the Executive Committee, I would like to join the society's efforts to face contemporary challenges and make it as inclusive as possible.</p>	

### CANDIDATE STATEMENT (for AGM Papers)

Name: Stephen Mawdsley	
Institution: University of Bristol	
Proposed by: Anna Greenwood	Seconded by: Claire Jones
<b>Please explain below why you are interested in becoming a member of the Executive Committee of the Society for the Social History of Medicine. You should not exceed the space on this page, or use a font size smaller than 11.</b>	
<p>As a social historian of American medicine and public health, I am keen to help the Society increase its impact within academia, and deliver its important educational mandate to a broad global audience.</p> <p>Based at the University of Bristol, I have served on the Society's Executive Committee since 2016 in the capacities of Postgraduate and Early Career Officer, and subsequently, EC Representative and Secretary to the <i>Social History of Medicine's</i> Editorial Board. I have organized extracurricular networking events for PhD students, including two SSHM postgraduate conferences (2017 and 2019) and the SSHM Postgraduate Training Session (2018). In the capacity of EC Rep and Secretary, I have helped to organize and convene editorial meetings to assure the smooth running of our publications. Through these roles, I have advanced the Society's wider mandates and gained an appreciation for its significance to both established academics and early career researchers.</p> <p>I will bring to the Executive Committee my working knowledge of the organization and its strategic priorities, as well as my administrative experience as Graduate Education Director in the Faculty of Arts (University of Bristol). I am eager to continue working with the Society in helping to maintain its leadership role in the social history of medicine. In particular, I wish to continue in my role as EC Rep and Secretary to the <i>Social History of Medicine's</i> Editorial Board to assure stability and continuity.</p>	

**CANDIDATE STATEMENT (for AGM Papers)**

Name: Rebecca Wynter	
Institution: University of Birmingham	
Proposed by: Claire Jones	Seconded by: Jonathan Reinarz
<p><b>Please explain below why you are interested in becoming a member of the Executive Committee of the Society for the Social History of Medicine. You should not exceed the space on this page, or use a font size smaller than 11.</b></p> <p>I have worked in the history of medicine since an undergraduate. My first degree was at a so-called ‘new university’. Studying for my PhD part-time was challenging; I worked hard in paid employment to support working hard in education. It seems that the path my career has followed over the past ten+ years has proved to be, not an outlier, but a feature of twenty-first century Higher Education: rich in scope and interest; poor in stability and ability to plan.</p> <p>Being part of the Executive Committee for the Society for the Social History of Medicine means that I can represent a whole raft of people for whom precarity is the norm—and that I recognise how invaluable are both the research and ideas of ‘ECRs’. I have actively contributed to the Society and the EC over the past three years. My current role as Roy Porter Prize Chair works to recognise some of the ECRs mentioned, and offers those shortlisted mentoring for publication.</p> <p>Beyond my officer role, I want to help effect change for others like me, and assist supporting the Society as, like the rest of us, it moves through a time of instability and social change. With the defunding of the Humanities, I would like to be part of the EC to help represent and defend the interests of SSHM members.</p>	