



Society for Research into Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2016

8th April 2016

President's Message

I hope that all of you in the northern hemisphere have survived Winter and that you "Southerners" are enjoying Autumn. I always marvel at the wonders of Spring, and this year I'm especially excited about all the "blooming" that Andy Wynd, Reinhold Cremer, and the Local Organizing Committee have created for our 60th Annual Meeting in Stirling, Scotland! You can see from the details below, as well as on our website, that great progress has been made and once again we will have a marvellous conference at the end of June. Having seen all of the abstracts, I can assure you that the quality of the science will be top-notch and the Special Symposium and Guest Lectures will be extremely informative and memorable. Please remember that the deadline for discounted registration is May 15, 2016.

Last February I was also inspired by the enthusiasm for an expanded cooperation between the SRHSB and the ISHCSF (International Society for Hydrocephalus and Cerebrospinal Fluid Disorders). As you may remember, I was invited to attend the ISHCSF Board meeting in London on February 4, 2016. Along with Carole Sobkowiak and Andy Wynd, we had a very open and constructive 2-hour discussion with the ISHCSF Board. Our progress included agreements to mutually advertise each Society's meetings and activities, formalize liaison positions on each Board (Hazel Jones and Laurence Watkins have agreed to advise the SRHSB Executive Committee in these positions and I will do the same on the ISHCSF Board), explore joint initiatives such as promoting education and research in Africa; we are even considering the possibility of a conjoined meeting in 2019. I am firmly convinced that this relationship will increase our visibility and open new doors for scientific collaboration amongst the members of both Societies.

Speaking of members, I am very pleased to report that our Society has acquired 11 new members since the annual meeting in Malaga last year. Dave Nash says this is the largest number of new members he has seen since he has become our Membership Secretary (400 years ago)! I sincerely believe that the SRHSB is one of the most welcoming groups of research-oriented clinicians and basic scientists, so the camaraderie is very high. In addition, a high level of scientific quality has been maintained for 60 years at our national meetings as well as in our outreach programs, especially in our attempts to educate everyone about the importance of folate metabolism in a fair and balanced way.

Finally, I am pleased to report that we had a long but very productive Executive Committee (EC) meeting on March 12, 2016. Seven of us gathered in person at St. Mary's Hospital in Manchester, UK courtesy of Jo Glazier, and the remaining 7 EC members joined electronically with GoToMeeting (thanks to Andy Wynd's expertise). We will update you with all the details at the Annual General Meeting in Stirling, but suffice it to say that we comprehensively reviewed all of the Society's business and current issues; this included reviews of all the abstracts and program decisions for the Stirling meeting, creation of a budget going forward that aims to cut costs, ideas for improving the website, planning for membership changes on the EC, and updates on the next Annual Meeting to be held in St. Louis in conjunction with the International Children's Continence Society (ICCS, <http://i-c-c-s.org>) headed by Paul Austin.

I probably should stop talking and let you get back to your research and your preparations for Stirling. I wish you all the brightness and promise of Spring and I can't wait to see you all in Stirling.

Kindest Regards to All,

Professor Pat McAllister

President, SRHSB