

## BRITISH SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

*Presidential review of the year's activity 1993-4**United European Gastroenterology Week 1997*

Our bid having been accepted, Council devoted itself to resolution of our primary concern to protect the financial interest of our Society and our members. This has now been achieved and a local organising committee has already been established.

*Diamond Jubilee 1997*

A Committee has been formed, chaired by Paul Smith, to plan our diamond jubilee. A fund raising initiative is to be mounted. One suggested aim is to purchase permanent premises for the Society.

It is hoped that a historian can be appointed to document the Society's development.

*Health services research*

Council has recognised the importance of Health Service research and the place that this is likely to hold in dominating practice in the near future. It seems probable that funds will be made available for this type of research and members of the Society need to be in a position to benefit from these. We have been liaising with the Royal College of Physicians and other groups. Council has made available priming funds for a first course in Health Services research to be held in Nottingham and now advertised. A working group has been formed to continue this initiative.

*Future of Society meetings*

An extraordinary business meeting was held in association with the Spring Meeting of the Society. General conclusions from the voting at the meeting and from subsequent communications with other groups are that two meetings per year are favoured and that one of these should have a greater emphasis on continued medical education.

There was a feeling that conference centres should be tried and we have therefore booked the Brighton Conference Centre for one of our meetings in 1996, recognising that there will be an increase in costs.

Continued medical education is attracting a great deal of attention both in the United Kingdom and in Europe. The European Gastroenterology Board has produced

criteria for certification and the education committee is now considering them.

*President's Medal*

Council agreed to the institution of a new award, the President's Medal. This to be awarded, at the discretion of the President, to a member or members who have given prolonged and outstanding service to the Society while not having had the opportunity of being President. The first such medal was presented at the Annual Business Meeting to Professor Michael Atkinson. A second medal is to be presented to Professor Bryan Brooke.

*NHS changes*

The enormous changes brought about by the NHS reforms are a major subject for Council's consideration. An example of the contributions made by the Society is the recent document on Endoscopy in General Practice, which sets out standards.

*Conclusions*

The Society is in a strong position nationally and internationally. Finances are in a healthy state. Our large and increasing membership includes many different clinical specialties as well as medical members. This is a recognition of the team approach to medical care, which is achieving increasing importance.

*Personal*

I am conscious of the honour done to me by the Society. I would like to express my gratitude to the officers and the members for hard work and loyal support. In particular I would like to express my gratitude and that of the Society to Professor Michael Farthing, retiring Senior Secretary, for his untiring efforts, support, and excellent judgement during my year of office.

M S LOSOWSKY

*School of Medicine,  
University of Leeds,  
Clinical Sciences Building,  
St James's University Hospital,  
Leeds LS9 7TF*