



## Retiral of National Co-ordinator



Helen Burton is well known to most of you as the National Co-ordinator for the Audit. She has recently retired from this post and all at SASM would like to wish her a very long and happy retirement.

Following a stint as a research assistant with Brian Jennet at the Institute of Neurological Sciences at the Southern General Hospital site in Glasgow in the 1980s Helen became involved in the Glasgow Audit of Surgical Deaths at its inception in 1990 when "Audit" was THE buzzword and before clinical governance had been developed. She became known to many clinicians with her hands on approach to clinical audit. Helen led the Glasgow office in the first days of the Scottish Audit of Surgical Mortality, gradually taking responsibility for overseeing all 4 offices and in recent years the centralisation of the support staff within ISD moving from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow to the NHS ISD offices at Cirrus in Paisley.

Helen has been the lynchpin of many of the developments within the audit, working tirelessly with the ever changing members of the Management Committee and the Steering Group, answering the queries from participants and assessors and her calm, unflappable manner will be missed by us all. She, however, will not miss the publication of the Annual Report which requires an immense effort on the part of the analysts and the support staff within the office.

The Management Committee would like to record their thanks to Helen for all her work over the lifetime of SASM.

**Heather Hosie**  
Past West of Scotland  
Anaesthetic Co-ordinator

## Changes in West of Scotland Co-ordinators

Following notification in Newsletter 14 of vacancies for both Surgical and Anaesthetic Co-ordinators for the West of Scotland region, interviews were held in November at the SASM offices. Mark Worsley who has been a Consultant in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care in Stirling for 18 years is taking over from Heather Hosie as West of Scotland Anaesthetic Co-ordinator. He has been an active supporter of both SASM and the Scottish Intensive Care Society Audit Group. He also feels that SASM could make a significant impact by focusing more closely on the care patients receive on hospital wards, and has an interest in the integration of SASM into local clinical governance.

Helen Dorrance, a Consultant General Surgeon from the Victoria Infirmary in Glasgow will be succeeding George Gray, who demits office as West of Scotland Surgical Co-ordinator in April.

George has been the West of Scotland Surgical Co-ordinator since 2004 previously having been Consultant Surgeon at the Victoria Infirmary in Glasgow. He has made an enormous contribution to the Audit, managing some challenging situations and providing a great deal of support to the office staff at Cirrus.

**Heather Hosie**  
Past West of Scotland  
Anaesthetic Coordinator

## Changes in the office staff

We have said goodbye to Lynsey Kerr and Garry Hecht the Information Analysts who have provided all the figures and data for annual reports and for individual annual reports. Both have received promotion, Lynsey to work on linkages in maternity and Garry to Primary care. The management committee would thank both Lynsey and Garry for all their work in producing the data for the Annual Report, and responding to our queries, often at very short notice. The Audit welcomes, in their place, Christine Torrance and David Read who have settled in extremely swiftly, but clearly these changes in essential staff have contributed to the difficulties in production of Individual Annual Reports.

**Heather Hosie**  
Past West of Scotland  
Anaesthetic Coordinator

## Ringling the changes

There have been a number of significant changes in the infrastructure of the Audit recently, which has resulted in delays in the production of Individual Annual Reports. SASM apologises to all who have been waiting for them to arrive, particularly in view of annual appraisal and job planning. However it is hoped that the changes, planned to be implemented in 2010, will make both completion of the forms and feedback to yourselves both more rapid and effective.

**Heather Hosie**  
Past West of Scotland  
Anaesthetic Coordinator

## Changing Presidents

John Orr, past President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh has relinquished office as President of SASM. In his three years at the helm, Mr Orr has overseen the adoption of SASM methodology to other areas of medical practice, specifically renal medicine and interventional radiology and has initiated discussion with our physician colleagues. He has also supported the modernisation of the audit infrastructure in the development of eSASM. The Management Committee and the Steering Committee are grateful for the leadership he has shown and his unwavering support of the Audit.

The new President of SASM is Ian Anderson, Consultant in Emergency Medicine who has recently taken up post as President of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and, on that basis, will chair meetings of SASM. As many of you know, Mr Anderson is well known for expressing his views succinctly and robustly and will no doubt provide a refreshingly different outlook on the audit's activities.

**Heather Hosie**  
Past West of Scotland Anaesthetic Co-ordinator

## Lay Members

The Management Committee are delighted to welcome a new lay member to SASM. He is Phil Dolan, West of Scotland Trustee of Haemophilia Scotland, who has campaigned for haemophiliacs with hepatitis C. Jim Mc Hugh, who has been a lay member of the committee for some time has contributed the following views on his experience so far. SASM is grateful to lay members for giving up their time to attend and to take an interest in what the audit attempts to do. The views of the public are important to the audit and inform our progress.

**Heather Hosie**  
Past West of Scotland Anaesthetic Co-ordinator

Eight years ago it was suggested to me that I might enjoy being a lay member of a research ethics committee. Reading the notes for the following meeting, I immediately felt there was an opportunity to make a difference while engaging in an interesting activity.

Since then I have experienced a monthly outbreak of hypochondria, so regular you could set your watch by it. Is it coincidence or could there be a connection?

Last summer I was asked to fill a gap while another Glasgow ethics committee recruited more lay members. I was happy to help and now find myself being in

two such committees. Quite time consuming but great fun.

Now as a member of the SASM board, I see my role at this stage mainly as a listening one. I listen to the medically trained and experienced members and consider how their thoughts and actions might be perceived by the general public and by the press. One thing I have learnt is that if we give someone the opportunity to misunderstand or be offended they will grab that chance with both hands.

There is a lot to learn in this role and I expect to be learning for some time before I am fully conversant with the processes of SASM.

In the real world I am an Independent Financial Adviser. In this role I help clients to understand complex arrangements and have developed an aptitude for breaking down jargon and rebuilding it into normal every day Scottish. I suspect that this might prove useful as a member of SASM.

In my brief time so far I have been impressed by the friendly welcome and the professionalism of the other members and I look forward to an invigorating term on the board.

**Jim McHugh**  
Lay member

## Heather Hosie steps down

Heather has also demitted office after many years involvement with SASM. Following spells as a 1st and 2nd line assessor, for the last 6 years, Heather has been Anaesthetic Co-ordinator for the West of Scotland. She was

also responsible for the success of the newsletter.

Her common sense approach to many of the problems faced by SASM during this time will be sorely missed

by the Board and Management Committee.

**Nick Pace**  
Chair of Management Group