



Message to All Readers of MEHD and Members of SOMED

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ELECTION

Most of you may know the results of the election. Rial Rolfe took care of all the details and did, as usual, an excellent job. We welcome Bodil Lund Jacobsen (Christian Hansen, Denmark) as our new President, 2004–2006. She has an excellent background in science and has been an active member in many important committees and working groups for the WHO and EU. Elisabeth Norin (Karolinska Institute, Sweden) is our new Secretary, 2004–2006. She is well known to all of you. She too has an excellent background in science, and is now an active member in several large European groups, sponsored by EU. She is also President of the Association for Gnotobiology. During my period as President for SOMED, she has helped me a great deal with practical and administrative matters. Therefore, she is well informed about the society. Additionally, she is a very good friend of our new President. I can ensure you that these two ladies will do their very best to make SOMED bigger and better. Gianfranco Donelli (Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy), Shigure Kamiya (Kyorin University, Japan) and Roland Möllby (Karolinska Institute, Sweden) were elected new board members, 2004–2007. All three have for a long time been SOMED members, and two of them were re-elected. Additionally, Rial Rolfe will continue to act as a Treasurer. I am quite sure that our new President is happy having these four experienced gentlemen on her board.

NEXT SOMED SYMPOSIUM

As mentioned in the last issue of *Microbial Ecology in Health and Disease*, our next SOMED Symposium will take place in Helsingör, Denmark, on 6–9 May, 2004. The place is very well suited for meetings like our Symposium. Our new President and Secretary are working hard to create an excellent programme. It will be published in the up-coming issue of the journal. In the meantime, please reserve that period in May next year for our Symposium, and please, start to figure out what YOU want to present.

MEMBERSHIP OF SOMED

We are keen to get new members. The combination of membership and subscription to *Microbial Ecology in Health and Disease* should make it easy for all of you identifying candidates. I am pleased to inform you that the special rates for this combination will remain unchanged in 2004 (USD 70 for ordinary members, USD 60 for students). Therefore, join us now!

CALL FOR PAPERS

As forecasted in my last editorial (2003;15:1) the fact that we postponed our Symposium in 2003 to 2004 has had an influence on the number of in-coming manuscripts. Now we are back to normal again. As Editor-in-Chief I am aware that it may take some time both for the referees to review and for the authors to revise them. Let us all try to speed up the process and, please, continue to send me your best manuscripts, making our journal even better.

Tore Midtvedt
Editor-in-Chief
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