



Newsletter August 2003

Dear ISEqH Members and Colleagues:

This is the third ISEqH newsletter of 2003. I would like to take this opportunity to focus on the Society's most important activity in this two-year period: the Third International Conference, to be held in Durban, South Africa, in June 2004.

Pathways to equity in health: Using research for policy and advocacy

The conference theme "Pathways to equity in health: Using research for policy and advocacy" will guide the discussions at the 2004 event in South Africa, where we will also explore issues like "global challenges and priorities for equity in health" and "the impact of health equity research on major public health concerns." If you are planning to submit an abstract, we encourage you to center your attention especially on your research activities.

Staying Informed About the Conference:

ISEqH Website Updated to Assist Members with Conference Planning

I invite you to visit the new pages about the Conference on our website (www.iseqh.org) where you will find clear information on how to prepare and submit your abstract, information on the registration procedure, and all the key dates. The Conference brochure found on the website is easy to share with colleagues and co-workers. We ask your assistance in downloading the brochure and helping the Society to distribute it as you see colleagues, students, and government figures.

The agenda, the site where our event will take place, and all the information that you might need to travel and stay in our host city, Durban, are now fully detailed on the website. Our partners in South Africa – Health Systems Trust, Southern African Regional Network on Equity in Health and Global Equity Gauge Alliance are hard at work to make this event memorable. Their efforts are very much appreciated.

The ISEqH Executive Board has assembled a stellar Scientific Advisory Committee to review and select abstracts for the upcoming meeting. Dr. Barbara Starfield is chairing the committee. I would like to thank all the members who agreed to offer their time and expertise to this committee. A list of members is found on the website.

Call for Abstracts Deadline

If you are planning to present an abstract for the Third International Conference, remember that the last day we will be accepting abstracts and applications for financial support will be December 1, 2003.

Remember the Advantages of ISEqH Membership

This is a very good time to renew your membership in the Society. The early registration fee for members is \$50.00 less than the fee for nonmembers.

The website (www.iseqh.org) offers information on joining the ISEqH or renewing your membership. You can also contact our communications coordinator, Leslie Nunez (leslie.nunez@utoronto.ca)

President's Activities

Over the last 3 months the mission of your President and Executive has been to develop a fundraising plan to sustain the Society and to support the upcoming meeting. Barbara Krimgold and Barbara Starfield are focusing on identifying sources in the USA; Monica Riutort and I are exploring Canadian sources, and Bo Burström is doing the same for Europe. We would welcome suggestions and leads.

In May I had the opportunity to meet with Bo Burström in Stockholm, and I participated in the meeting of the International Association for Health Policy. Gunnar Ågren gave the keynote address on the impact of the European Union on health in Sweden. The Society received support from the participants, and we distributed the Conference brochure at the meeting.

We will keep the membership apprised of the developments related to the business handled by the Executive; I plan to focus on that in the next newsletter.

Kind regards to all,



Yves Talbot
President