



## Newsletter February 2004

Dear ISEqH member:

2004 has begun and we are concentrating on the most important event of the year, the Third International Conference. We have continued working closely with our partners HST, GEGA and Equinet, to plan and implement a successful conference. The main purpose of this newsletter, and subsequent ones through June, is to keep our membership informed about the latest news on the organization of this meeting, which will take place in Durban, South Africa from June 10-12, 2004.

### Abstract submissions

Our deadline for abstracts was December 20, 2003. Up to that date, the Conference's Scientific Committee, headed by Dr. Barbara Starfield, received 260 abstract submissions for oral presentations or posters and 11 workshop proposals sent by colleagues from 54 countries all over the world. We are so pleased to have representation from all five continents with a high level of participation of African colleagues, lead by South Africa with more than 30 submissions. Other countries leading the submissions are United Kingdom, Brazil and Australia. I would like to thank all of those who have submitted their works.

The Scientific Committee for the meeting has planned to finalize the evaluation process by mid February, and **the Secretariat will be contacting the selected authors by e-mail before the end of this month.**

### Agenda for the meeting

The Planning Committee has developed the preliminary agenda for the Third Conference, and this document is in revision. By February 27<sup>th</sup> the preliminary agenda will be available on our website.

### Registration

Please, note **the registration process for the meeting has begun.** You will find the REGISTRATION FORM, fees and instructions on our website ([www.iseqh.org](http://www.iseqh.org)).

One of the benefits of being a member is that your registration fees are lower than the regular price. If you have not renewed your membership for 2004 yet you can simply visit our web site, complete the membership payment form and send it to Leslie Nunez ([leslie.nunez@utoronto.ca](mailto:leslie.nunez@utoronto.ca)) as a file attachment.

## **Getting information about the Third International Conference**

I would like to remind you once again that you can find all the information you might need about the meeting on our website [www.iseqh.org](http://www.iseqh.org). Very soon we will be posting everything related to accommodation, conference site and travel information. In case you cannot find the information you need on the website, you can always e-mail Leslie Nunez ([leslie.nunez@utoronto.ca](mailto:leslie.nunez@utoronto.ca)).

## **Grants and fundraising**

Most of energies of the Executive Board this month have been taken up doing fundraising. They have sent proposals to several international organizations and foundations and they have prepared letters for a number of private donors. The funds raised will allow us to support the conference participation of our members from European and developing country. Our goal is to subsidize 50 participants, and we are doing our best to reach this number.

## **Focus group about the Toronto Declaration**

As you might remember from the General Assembly Meeting at the Second International Conference in Toronto in 2002, ISEqH members approved a resolution declaring that ISEqH should issue a "Toronto Declaration" ([http://www.iseqh.org/en/to\\_declaration.htm](http://www.iseqh.org/en/to_declaration.htm)) laying out the ISEqH position on global health equity. A drafting committee was nominated to prepare such a declaration for review and approval of the ISEqH Board of Directors.

After we posted the declaration on the website, we received several motivating comments from our members. The Scientific Committee for the Third Conference decided that it would be a good idea to run a focus group as part of the agenda in Durban regarding the Toronto Declaration. This will help us to understand how ISEqH members have used this document and to project future possibilities in each region.

**Please, send us your ideas, comments, and suggestions to run this focus group.**

## **Regional ISEqH Branches**

One of the outcomes from the Second International Conference in Toronto was the decision to support the development of regional ISEqH branches.

Following up on this resolution and further to discussion with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the ISEqH will hold a meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil in April 2004, to support the establishment of the Latin American and Caribbean branch. We have invited a cross section representation of policy makers, health service providers, researchers and advocacy group representatives of the region to this meeting.

In the next newsletter I will provide you with more information about this event.

## **Reminder**

As we embark on a new year, I reiterate my open invitation to get involved in the ISEqH: renew your membership for 2004, and register to attend our Third International Conference!

The International Society for Equity in Health has again been challenged to organize an excellent and memorable meeting in Durban, with the support of our African partners HST, GEGA and Equinet. I am confident that it will be an exceptionally stimulating Conference.

Looking forward to seeing you in June,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yves Talbot', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Yves Talbot  
President