

DOHAD SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Munich, Germany

Friday 14th October 2016

1. Welcome and introduction (Mark Hanson)

Mark Hanson welcomed everyone to the DOHaD Society AGM, with congratulations to Bert Kolezko and his team for hosting a most successful Power of Programming meeting, with thanks for accommodating the DOHaD Society to enable this meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and noted as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.

3. Secretary's Report (Deb Sloboda)

Membership: Membership numbers have continued to rise steadily, with over 600 members coming from 61 countries. 69% are standard members, 20% from developing countries, and 9% are student members – still proportionally small. All members were asked to encourage their trainees to join the society. The trainee reps on Council are working to encourage membership, and have also started a Facebook group to enable students and trainees to keep in touch.

10th World Congress, Rotterdam: Vincent Jaddoe invited everyone to Rotterdam in October 2017. The meeting will run October 15-18, 2017, including satellite workshops, at da Doolen conference centre, the biggest in the region. The 2017 Congress theme will focus on Lifecourse Health and Disease: observations, experiments and interventions. Approximately 80-11 invited speakers are expected. The website has been updated and continues to be updated with more information about the topics, the programme and what you can expect in Rotterdam. Please see the Congress website (www.dohad2017.org) for more information. There will be discounted registration fees for DOHaD members.

DOHaD 2019: Melbourne, Australia: We are pleased to announce that after careful consideration of highly competitive bids for the 2019 World Congress, the winning bid is for Melbourne Australia. Congratulations to the Congress chairs Professors John Bertram and Euan Wallace from Monash University, who will be joined by the DOHaD Society of ANZ in organizing the 2019 World Congress.

Workshops: Members were reminded that funds are available to support DOHaD workshops. Application can be made at any time, and maximum awards have recently been increased to £750 for developed nations or £1500 for developing countries. Details and forms can be found on the website www.dohadsoc.org

The Society had supported 10 workshops in the 2015/16 year, and all members were encouraged to apply for sponsorship for the forthcoming year. It is important to translate the proceedings of these workshops for publication in J DOHaD. Organisers are encouraged to put together a themed issue of original papers. Supplements and Themed issues are published under the editorship of Dr Janna Morrison, University of South Australia, and it is hoped to increase the number for the forthcoming year.

Advocacy – ECHO final report: The WHO Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity (ECHO), (co-chaired by Sir Peter David Gluckman, Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of New Zealand, and Dr Sania Nishtar, the founder and President of Heartfile; Dr Mark Hanson co-chairs the Working Group on Science and Evidence in relation to ECHO, reporting to the Director-General) has produced a final report of the working group on science and evidence for ending childhood obesity. Mark circulated the report to the DOHaD membership for comment. (read the report here http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/206549/1/9789241565332_eng.pdf?ua=1)

J DOHaD: The Journal is now in its seventh year of publication with Dr Michael Ross as Editor-in-Chief. The biggest accomplishment for the Journal in 2015 was that this is the first year that the cumulative Society balance has been in surplus (£948) and we look forward to seeing this income continue.

The Journal is indexed by Thomson Reuters and Scopus; the 2015 Impact Factor for JDOHaD is 1.733 which represents an increase on the 2014 IF of 0.750. JDOHaD was accepted for indexing in PubMed in November 2013. The Editorial Board along with Cambridge University Press is setting strategies in place to increase our submission and citations rates in order to increase the impact factor rating.

The Journal continues to publish both Supplements (e.g., proceedings of conferences or symposia) and Themed Issues (edited by Dr Janna Morrison, University of South Australia).

Themed Issues published in 2016 include:

- The David Barker Symposium Issue
- Early life exposure and child development and later health and human capital in Africa (Themed Issue for the World Congress in Cape Town)
- The Gut Microbiome
- Prenatal Origins of Adult Mental Health and Illness
- The Ibero-American Chapter themed issue

The Journal began giving out Publication Awards at the 9th World Congress, and this will now be standard at the World Congress biannually. This Award will go to an individual based on service and contribution to the journal rather than a single best journal, and individuals are nominated by Editorial Board members.

Subscription to the Journal is included in DOHaD Society membership fees, so all members have free online access. J DOHaD can be accessed direct through the members' area of www.dohadsoc.org, or via J DOHaD/CUP website (separate login required).

Newsletters and Website: www.dohadsoc.org. The website has information on upcoming workshops, member applications, forms for workshops, and now also showcases our DOHaD Associated Societies, describes our Governance system clearly and has a page dedicated to Trainees. All members are encouraged to contact the secretariat to advertise your meetings, vacancies, or to send in contributions of interest for publishing on the website.

The Society publishes 4 newsletters per year. They are a continuing source of information to the membership including workshops, announcements, membership and Journal updates. The "Featured scientist" section showcases our members in our newsletters and we have now included a new Trainee section in the newsletter. Equally, if you have news that you think that

the membership would enjoy hearing or would benefit from, please contact us. We have also adopted a Hot News Announcements for those hot topics that need to go out to membership in short notice between the full Newsletters.

New Members were encouraged to submit articles, information, new reports relevant to DOHaD and feedback. Contributions should be sent to Deb Sloboda sloboda@mcmaster.ca or Jane Pearce jp@mrc.soton.ac.uk/dohad@mrc.soton.ac.uk

Governance: Five new members have been appointed to Council in the last year – please see the website for full details. The next round of elections will be in the Summer of 2017, and new members will start at the Council meeting in Rotterdam Congress in October 2017. Full details are available on the website. A call for nominations will be announced in the Spring of 2017.

New 2017 positions available are:

Basic sciences rep

Clinical Sciences (2 positions)

European rep

North American rep

Pacific Rim

President

Public health and policy

Secretary

Student rep (2 positions)

Treasurer

Trustee (4 positions)

Members are reminded that to be more involved in how the Society operates, individuals may nominate themselves or by someone else to serve on Council. The only requirement is that the nominee must be an active member of the society – all levels of training and engagement are represented. The Society's officers meet every 6 weeks, and the Council every 3 months, by teleconference. Council has representatives from all regions of the world, different scientific specialties within DOHaD, as well as representatives from Associated Groups. Each member serves for 4 years, with half the seats being vacated and re-elected by members every 2 years.

Formation of new Council subcommittee: The Society has formed a Scientific Programme Committee with Steve Matthews as Chair. A copy of the Terms of Reference is being drafted, and will be available to members when finalized by Council. In general, the Scientific Program Committee (SPC) is composed of six or more active members of the Society (including a trainee), appointed by the President with the consent of the Council. The SPC shall be responsible for oversight of programs for the scientific meetings of the Society including the World Congress to ensure that Society needs are being met and that each World Congress meets the needs of the Society's membership.

Associated groups: The Society continues to encourage and support the formation of associated groups. There are currently four Affiliate Societies (The DOHaD Society of Australia and New Zealand, and the French Speaking DOHaD Society have recently been joined by Canada and Pakistan), and two Chapters (the Ibero-American DOHaD Chapter and Japanese DOHaD Chapter). Groups from USA and South Africa will follow in the coming months. The Presidents of these groups hold Council positions to enable each group to be represented in the workings of the Society. All members were encouraged to check out the website to find out more about

these groups, and for further information on applying for Associate Group status with the Society.

Trainees: The two trainee reps on Council (Amita Bansal and Sky Feuer) are working together to raise the profile of trainee memberships of the Society, with the organisation of workshops and functions at the World Congress. They have established a Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/408996095891579/> .

DOHaD Postdoc Trainees have been actively involved as trainee reviewers of the articles submitted to J DOHaD.

If you would like to become a trainee member, or update your trainee membership, email Jane Pearce at jp@mrcsoton.ac.uk. The trainee membership fee is GBP 25 for one year, or GBP 35 for two years. Please encourage your trainees or fellow trainees to join and have their voice heard.

4. Treasurer's Report (Keith Godfrey)

Keith Godfrey tabled the accounts were sustained over the last year. The accounts are independently audited each year and submitted to the UK Charity Commission. The donation from the 8th World Congress in Singapore enables the Society to increase support for its charitable objectives and a further donation from the 9th World Congress is anticipated in the coming financial year. The Society continues to operate predominantly on membership subscriptions: no contributions or sponsorship are received from the private sector. However, J DOHaD is now generating a small profit and income remains steady. The Society strives to put as much as possible to our objectives, and to that end we are pleased to be able to offer a 50% increase in the amount of workshop support available, and support a higher number of travel fellowships and other awards. Further discussions will be held to consider proposals for investing additional funds into strengthening the advocacy and education roles of the Society including further support for workshops in developing countries. An increase in initial funds available to world congress organisers will also be considered. Administrative costs are kept low as possible, in keeping with requirements for UK registered charities.

5. Any other business

There was no other business.