

## **President's Report 2012**

7<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting 27/February/2013

*Inaugural Electronic ABM hosted on SGU's Wimba system*

BSEC's 2012 Forum was incorporated into the 72nd Annual UWI-BAMP Independence Conference called "Pain Management: Clinical, Legal and Ethical Implications" and held in the new Henry Fraser Auditorium at UWI's Cave Hill campus in Barbados (18-19 November 2012). It was attended by over 150 physicians who listened and enthusiastically engaged in many discussions. While only four BSEC members were able to attend (President Macpherson, Treasurer Sirju-Charran, South Eastern Representative Ricketts, and Past President Aarons) it was a great opportunity to make BSEC known to participants and to attract new membership from Barbados. We are gratified by BSEC's growing membership and grateful to our UWI hosts.

As BSEC slowly matures its Executive is working to standardize and regularize its lists of members and of dues received. In 2013 we hope to have updated our system for record-keeping, made all dues payable in January of each year, and created a new list of paid members that will be maintained over time. We also hope to increase communication with members and encourage more active participation in developing BSEC and its capacity to support bioethical approaches to the many dilemmas that confront healthcare and other sectors within the region.

Discussions have begun with SGU to host BSEC's 2013 Forum in November. Details should be available on our website in May by which time details should be finalized. For BSEC's 2014 Forum your Executive is reflecting on how best to develop a grant proposal that, if awarded, would fund speakers travel as well as the production and dissemination of proceedings across the region and perhaps beyond. BSEC members who are interested in being part of the grant proposal team are asked to email President Macpherson about their potential contribution to its development.

Those who missed the editorial by Udo Schuklenk on BSEC based on his participation in the 2011 Forum might want to check it out (on BSEC's website under the Other Events tab). One of my major goals as BSEC's President was to launch a user friendly and informative website that could increase communications among members and serve to engage and inform the public about BSEC and ethical concerns in the region. The website was launched in November 2011 but there is work to be done on it. We seek members willing to take charge of, or routinely contribute to, a blog or discussion page there. Contents might be the monthly posting of a link to an international news article that highlights ethical issues of concern to the Caribbean, and a brief description or commentary the BSEC member who posts it. Email the Secretariat if you are willing to take a role in this endeavor and thereby enhance BSEC's value across the region. Doing so will help BSEC fulfill its potential to enhance reflection about the moral implications and consequences of actions taken in medicine, research, and other realms.

Given his impeccable integrity we are grateful to Past President Aarons for agreeing to serve as the official election officer for BSEC's elections in February 2013. This election will be unique in being conducted during an electronic ABM. Paid members will receive details in coming weeks about when and how to log onto the 'wimba' host site. We look forward to your participation.

*Submitted by Cheryl Macpherson, PhD., BSEC President, 2010-2012*  
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