

## President's Report 2013

Delivered at BSEC ABM 4:30 pm on *Nov 16, 2013* in SGU's Alumni Hall, Grenada  
Cheryl Macpherson, BSEC President, 2010-2012; 2012-2014  
Professor and Chair, Bioethics Department, St George's University, Grenada

I am honored to serve as BSEC's 2<sup>nd</sup> President. Two major accomplishments in my terms are the establishment of a reliable BSEC Secretariat and an informative website. These accomplishments are only possible thanks to the hard work and attention of Kamille Williams who helped established, and manages both.

Part of BSEC's mission is to generate understanding of, and dialog about, "bioethics in human and animal healthcare, research and policy-making". Today, with support from SGU's Bioethics Dept, BSEC's Annual Forum succeeded in facilitating understanding and dialog on bioethics issues of broad regional concern, and of particular interest to Grenada's clinicians. We have attracted new members from Grenada and more student members, and of course, students are BSEC's future.

All of us, as BSEC members, have a responsibility to explore opportunities to bring bioethics into our institutions and states. We can do this by individually and/or collectively initiating public or, policy dialog; and by aspiring to scholarly bioethics work in our teaching, practice, and/or publications.

I perceive my job as President to encourage and publicize this work, and to use BSEC's activities and website to attract wider interest and further increase dialog. The biggest challenge that I perceive is also one of BSEC's strengths. That is, the distant and diverse locations of its members. This challenges the face to face communication that is so essential to a cohesive focus, and the ability to motivate and hold each other accountable. For this reason I call on our Executive, and particularly our Regional Representatives, to more aggressively pursue their responsibilities of outreach within their regions, and to communicate more regularly with us all about the challenges and rewards in doing so.

I also call on our general members to become more active. In 2013 we introduced a blog on bioethics issues relevant in the Caribbean. How many of you have looked at the blog, or even the website? How many of you have responded to our posts, raised bioethics concerns of your own, or shared information about related activities and accomplishments in your institutions and states? What can we, your Executive, do to engage you?

In closing, I ask each of you to consider some questions and share your thoughts when we discuss BSEC's regional role/s on today's Agenda, and later, by email or on our blog. These questions are

- Why did you join BSEC?
- What role would you like it to play in your work or studies?
- What might you contribute to fulfilling BSEC's mission?

**BSEC's Mission:** "To increase knowledge and understanding of bioethics through promoting and fostering deliberations across the English-speaking Caribbean, as well as through international collaboration, thereby making a significant contribution to the overall development and implementation of bioethics in human and animal healthcare, research and policy-making."