

## **BSEC President's Report 2014**

Delivered at BSEC ABM 3:30 pm on *Sept 13, 2014* at UTech, Kingston, Jamaica

Cheryl C Macpherson, BSEC President, 2010-2012; 2012-2014

Professor and Chair, Bioethics Department, St George's University, Grenada

It has been a genuine privilege to serve as BSEC's 2<sup>nd</sup> President. I'm proud of establishing a reliable BSEC Secretariat and an informative website during my tenure, both of which rely on the hard (and voluntary) work of Kamille Williams. As we move toward a new Executive and our BSEC's ten year anniversary I urge each of you to take the reins and innovate because, as CS Lewis (1898-1963) said, we "cannot go on indefinitely being just an ordinary egg. We must be hatched or go bad."

As BSEC continues to grow in membership and influence, let us remember that, among other things, its mission is to generate dialog about "bioethics in human and animal healthcare, research and policy-making". We each have a responsibility to integrate bioethics into our own institutions and states in whatever form that may take. My own efforts focus on dialog about health, the environment, and the harms of climate change.

Our Annual Forum is one way to motivate each other and carry bioethics dialog forward. The main purpose of many professional societies is to conduct an annual meeting, so I commend everyone who has hosted and supported the Forum in this or past years, and all of you for being here today.

The main task for our President is to ensure the continuity of our Forum, and the opportunities for dialog that it presents. The main task for our Vice President is to publish Forum presentations in our annual newsletter, with regional updates about bioethics activities.

BSEC has, and will hopefully continue to have, other influential roles. These depend on the interests and commitment of its members and Executive. I challenge you to share updates of your bioethics activities through our newsletter, website, or in an email to circulate to members. We all gain from learning about the challenges, accomplishments, and processes that go into bioethics teaching; research; and service on national bioethics committees, national BSEC groups, international bodies, etc. For example, our visionary and modest Past President Derrick was just employed as CARPHA's first ethicist, and named in June 2014 as a "Gem of 2014" for being one of six "men who are role models making a difference to their communities" in Jamaica.

How you might better contribute to fulfilling BSEC's mission, and help its members to grow by informing us all of your bioethics failures and successes? Doing so would show us potential ways forward, and help our collective efforts to make the world a better place.

**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."