

Report of the Strategic Management Council (SMC): 2015-2016

This year's president for the 177th session of the Liverpool Medical Institution was Mr Graham Lamont. He presented a very varied and interesting programme that included fascinating lectures on innovation, bio-archaeology and neuroscience.

In May we held the inaugural Frances Ivens lecture, which is to be an annual joint lecture between LiMHS, LMI and Liverpool University, dedicated to the application of evidence in medical practice. An auspicious beginning, the first eponymous lecture was given by Professor Dan Fox, President Emeritus of the Milbank Memorial Fund in New York.

Collaborations/Partnerships

We continue to organize a variety of events with like-minded organisations and medical societies, as reflected in the upcoming programme.

The LMI has undertaken some significant partnership work with the Victoria Gallery and Museum and the Liverpool Athenaeum club to produce a fascinating exhibition on the shared history of the LMI and Athenaeum, their founder members and their role in the development of Liverpool. More detail on this can be found in the report of my colleague, the Honorary Librarian.

This year was also marked by continued discord between The University of Liverpool and the Liverpool Medical Students' Society, an issue that many LMI members may be aware of and that has created some strong feeling from both parties.

In March 2016, the officers of LMSS approached the LMI with a proposal to use the LMI as a place to co-ordinate their activities on campus, a postal address to base the society, a venue to hold their regular academic meetings and storage of a box of artefacts and two engraved boards. Shortly afterwards the LMI met with the Vice Chancellor of The University of Liverpool, hearing in full both sides to the conflict.

This presented the Trustees of the Institution with a dilemma. We felt an obligation and personal responsibility to consider the students' proposal and to support and guide our younger colleagues; the LMI is committed to supporting medical education and academic meetings. Conversely, the LMI greatly values its connections with the University, which are vital to the future success of our Institution.

Following a very open and full discussion at a Strategic Management Committee meeting of the LMI, SMC members expressed sympathy with, and a willingness to support the medical student body as a whole. However given the strength of feeling from within the University and their desire to keep the LMSS within the Guild of Students, SMC members concluded that the presence of the unresolved issues between the two parties meant that LMI should remain impartial at this time.

However, the LMI would be willing to support a re-engagement of discussions between the University and the LMSS and support a reconciliation in whatever way we could. We remain in contact with both parties and will continue to help where we are able to.

Membership

We would like to remind you that the LMI have negotiated with Liverpool University Libraries an improvement to membership benefits whereby walk in access to their library facilities will be granted on presentation of an LMI Membership Card. Members will receive an updated copy in their Christmas mailing. If you cannot locate your card, please contact the LMI admin office and they will send you a replacement. The LMI has also extended its links with the Liverpool Philharmonic with access to exclusive behind-the-scenes events for members, details of which can be found on the Member Login Area of the website.

The Building

Further improvements to the structure of the building are ongoing, with the first floor ladies' WC being refurbished to bring them up to the standard of the ground floor facilities, providing a more luxurious convenience!

The LMI has also enjoyed a sweeping upgrade to our computer system and event booking system, enabling staff to work much more efficiently.

People

An organization's main strength is in its people, in this case the staff and membership. The Strategic Management Council wish to thank all those who help to run the LMI on a day-to-day basis. In particular this year we would like to thank Real Food Catering for their outstanding cuisine and incredible flexibility, and our permanent staff responsible for the day to day operation of the Institution for their efforts during the year.

Adrienne, Sue, Joy and the many library volunteers continue to provide excellent library services and to care for and preserve LMI's collection of fabulous artefacts and portraits. Adrienne in particular has done excellent work towards museum accreditation. Karen has done a fantastic job with the LMI finances and continues to improve the LMI building. We were also joined by Mal Price, who has begun a new role as LMI caretaker, and whose many and varied skills keep the LMI building looking great and working well.

Membership and conference services could not be delivered without the administration team Audrey, Lynne, Sam and Sharon. All four have worked particularly hard this year to introduce our new electronic booking system, on top of all the usual LMI events, and the conference business is already seeing the benefit. Tom, who looks after the evening meetings, continues to do an invaluable job with enthusiasm, loyalty and flexibility, and Laurence Brady has been a great help behind the bar.

Last but not least, we thank the LMI membership for their support in these challenging economic times, and encourage you to come and enjoy the building and events and make the most of your membership! We love to see the building come alive with the laughter and companionship of friends old and new at events such as the annual dinner, and hope there are many more to come.

The Year Ahead

The incoming President for the 178th Session (2016-2017) is Mr Derek Machin, and we look forward to his programme of events. The LMI also plans to hold a three day festival in the summer of 2017 on the themes of food and health, to further develop our experience with public engagement and exhibitions.

Much work has been done in the background to facilitate the next stage of organisational and material redevelopment of the LMI, and efforts centering around preparing LMI's final application for museum status, fleshing out the themes of a permanent exhibition using LMI's collections and identifying and working with partners and funders for the redevelopment project will continue. Once more formal plans for the physical redevelopment of the building have been shortlisted these concepts will be circulated to members for comment and consultation. If any members are interested in working on this project with LMI staff and trustees, please do get in contact with us to express your interest.

Mr Austin McCormick
Honorary Secretary

Sam Pickup
Manager

Membership Category	January 2016
Full	201
Joint	26
Trainee	47
Country	60
Retired	98
Affiliate	39
Student Affiliate	1129
Life	132
Honorary	14