

## Chairman's report

First of all I would like to thank Julie Gallagher for her inspiring leadership over the last 3 years. I look forward to building on her success and on our past achievements during my period in office. We have a strong team, probably the strongest and most active we have ever had, and I am sure that between us we can take BGTHA on to even greater achievements. As there has not been a great deal to report in the short time since I took over the chair, instead I would like to set out some of the goals that I would like to see us achieving, not necessarily in order of priority.

### 1. **Communication with members**

I would like to see greater use of periodic newsletters with important breaking news items and information on the Committee's activities.

### 2. **Regional groups**

I would like to encourage the formation of regional groups with meetings and educational activities. We are upgrading the membership database to make regional membership groups more easily identifiable, and this should make the organisation of meetings easier.

### 3. **Global health**

I would like to expand our role in this field in promoting global health education and participating in global health projects.

### 4. **Co-operation with Faculty of Travel Medicine and other travel & global health bodies**

We are continuing in our efforts to co-operate with other bodies. In the Spring of next year we intend to hold a joint conference with Medsin, the enthusiastic and energetic international medical students' organisation, and in the Spring of 2015 we intend to hold a joint conference with the Faculty of Travel Medicine. This will mean a move from October to the Spring for our Annual Scientific Meeting from its current month of October. Our involvement with NECTM continues, and the next conference will take place on June 5 – 8, 2014 in Bergen.

### 5. **IT**

Having taken over the Chair, I have relinquished my role in respect of the BGTHA website. Having overseen the birth and continued development of the current website I am now in the process of handing over its management and continued development to our newly co-opted committee member, Kit Tse. Kit will also continue to expand the functions of the membership database in order for us to give a better service to both new and existing members. He is well versed in matters of IT and I am sure that he will take us on to higher levels of achievement in our IT functions.

### 6. **Publications**

I am also relinquishing my role in respect of the Publications Subcommittee, which I am leaving in the capable hands of Julie Gallagher. I would like to encourage members to write for the Journal and/or Travelwise and to encourage others to submit work to us. If you are new to writing we will be happy to help you.

## **7. Finance**

Martin Brown has done excellent work in putting our finances on a more secure footing and I look forward to working with him to improve further our financial status.

## **8. Annual Scientific Meeting**

As Chairman of the Scientific Subcommittee for this year's conference I have attempted to make our conference more inclusive by arranging parallel sessions at which there is a choice between attending scientific sessions or more basic workshops. I would like to see future conferences continuing to innovate to produce conferences that give more than just a series of "talking heads", and to expand the global health content in order to attract a larger audience. I hope that next year's conferences will be a step in the right direction.

## **9. Special interest group**

It was my interest in wilderness and expedition medicine that originally led me into travel medicine, so the SiG is something that I was keen on hosting within BGTHA. Since it was set up it has not been very active yet, and I would like to see it becoming more active in the future. In my opinion we need someone to take an active lead in this. More material is needed on the SiG page on the website, and I would also like to see a dedicated section of the Journal for this group. Perhaps it may be possible to convene meetings of the group, possibly as part of the move towards regional meetings that I have already referred to.

Mike Townend