



## Outgoing President's report, 2014-2017 Valerie Beral

Following the unexpected death of Patricia Buffler, who was due to take over as IEA President in 2014-2017, I was elected to replace her at relatively short notice. It was a great honour to do so, and I would not have managed without the wise counsel and help of the then President, Cesar Victora, and other members of the Council.

When I took over as President in August 2014, my main goals were to increase the visibility and representation of IEA worldwide, support epidemiology in low- and middle-income countries, continue to support the dissemination of epidemiological information, and stabilize the association's finances.

### **International representation and support**

In the last three years, IEA's affiliation with the World Health Organisation was re-established. The IEA was also elected as a partner of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) in 2016. IEA contributed to two scientific sessions at the WFPHA's World Congresses on Public Health: on Sustainable Development Goals in Kolkata in February 2015, and on non-communicable diseases in low- and middle-income countries in Melbourne in April 2017. Another new partnership is with Countdown to 2030 on maternal, newborn and child survival.

The IEA contributed to the African Regional Meeting in Malawi in April 2016, the Epidemiology Congress of the Americas in Miami in June 2016, and the South East Asian Regional Workshop on non-communicable diseases in Pokhara in April 2017. The IEA also continued to support students attending the residential course in Epidemiology in Florence.

### **World Congress of Epidemiology 2017**

The triennial IEA World Congress of Epidemiology is being held in Saitama, Japan, on 19-22 August, 2017. The programme theme 'Epidemiology in a Changing World' has attracted contributions from around the world and promises to be a memorable occasion. We thank Professor Nakamura, the Congress President, and his staff for the detailed planning they have done, putting together an outstanding international programme.

### **IEA Membership**

As of August, 2017, there were about 1800 IEA members from over 100 countries, of whom about half were from low- and middle-income countries, a third were joint members with other organizations, and about a fifth were early career epidemiologists.

The regional distribution of IEA members is as follows:

<b>Regional distribution of current IEA membership, August 2017</b>	
<b>Africa</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Eastern Mediterranean</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Europe</b>	<b>278</b>
<b>Latin American and Caribbean</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>North America</b>	<b>261</b>
<b>South East Asia</b>	<b>419</b>
<b>Western Pacific</b>	<b>457</b>

### **The International Journal of Epidemiology**

The International Journal of Epidemiology (IJE) is a leading journal in Public, Environmental and Occupational Health. One of the chief goals of the IEA when it was established was to promote dissemination of epidemiological findings. The IJE was first published by Oxford University Press in 1972, with Walter Holland its first editor. IEA still owns the IJE and Oxford University Press still publishes it. Income from the sale of the IJE (about \$300,000 annually) is one of the main sources of income for the IEA.

The IJE's most recent Impact Factor is 7.7, with the journal ranked 5<sup>th</sup> out of 176 journals in the field. Much of the recent success of the journal is due to the inspirational leadership shown by George Davey Smith and Shah Ebrahim, who were co-editors from 2000. They ended their long association with the journal in December 2016. Stephen Leeder, a long-term member of IEA, was appointed as the new editor, starting in January 2017. We wish him and his editorial staff well in maintaining this important journal.

### **Financial Management**

In 2008, when IEA reserves were above \$1,000,000, Council decided that reserves could be reduced to some extent by permitting annual expenditure to exceed annual income. As a consequence, reserves fell to \$760,000 by the end of 2013. Substantial losses were incurred in 2014 associated with the World Congress of Epidemiology in Anchorage, such that by end of 2014 reserves were just \$540,000.

IEA's falling reserves prompted an urgent review of its finances in early 2015. In April 2015 it was decided that from then on IEA's annual expenditure should no longer exceed its annual income. This resulted in a reduction in the funds available for the editorial office of the International Journal of Epidemiology, for running international courses and for other activities. Income has been fairly constant over the last few years, most coming from Oxford University Press for sales of the International Journal of Epidemiology. Expenditure has matched income in the last few years and reserves have stabilized, such that by the end of 2016 they were about \$550,000.

**Further information about IEA activities** are on the IEA website <http://ieaweb.org/>

*15 August 2017*