

MANCHESTER MEDICAL SCHOOL

Public Health Forum

The Public Health Forum began the 2006/2007 session with its Presidential Address. The meeting was held on **Thursday 2nd November 2006** at **6.00 pm** in Theatre 4 of the Stopford Building, University of Manchester.

Professor D J Baker, the outgoing President, opened the meeting and welcomed the President of the Society, Professor J A Morris.

The **Annual General Meeting** then took place whereby formal election of new Office-bearers and Members of Council for 2006/2007 was unanimously agreed as follows:-

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| PRESIDENT ELECT | Sarah Jane O'Brien |
| MEMBER OF COUNCIL | Alan Thomas Higgins Victoria Helen Owen-Smith |

The outgoing President handed over the Presidential Medallion to the incoming President, Dr C A Birt (Consultant/Honorary Senior Lecturer in Public Health, Liverpool and Sefton Primary Care Trusts and Universities of Manchester, Liverpool, Glasgow and Kyoto).

Dr Birt thanked Professor Baker for her excellent term of office and then began his **Presidential Address** entitled:-

“The state of Public Health practice in 2006 – fit for purpose?”

The President gave a review of the changing challenges to public health practitioners over the last 50 years, and the extent to which the nature of these has also altered radically. He considered the ways in which organisation of public health practice has developed over the same period, and the extent of change in the whole environment within which public health practitioners have to perform. Finally, he reviewed current trends in organisation of public health activity, current trends in the health activity, current trends in the health challenges we have to address, and considered the extent to which the former is appropriate for the latter.

A lively question and answer session ensued, which was closely followed by prolonged applause.

After the meeting a dinner was held in honour of Dr Birt, at a local restaurant and members and guests were invited.