

**AAG Medical Geography Specialty Group (MGSG)
Annual Report, October 2008**

Please note that most of the information in this report is found at the MGSG web site, <http://userpages.umbc.edu/~earickso/Index.html>

1) *Mission Statement* – To provide a forum for disseminating research on geographical epidemiology, spatial aspects of health care delivery, health care polity and the political economy of health care, and ethnomedicine, and to promote medical/health geography with the discipline of geography and to related disciplines, agencies in government and the private sector, and the general public.

2) *Dues Information* – Dues \$8 (students \$1)

3) *Chair/Board of Directors*

Chair – Vandana Wadhawa, Boston University (vandanaw@comcast.net), 2008-2009

Vice-Chair – Sue C. Grady, Michigan State University (gradys@msu.edu), 2008-2009

Board Member – Aniruddha Banerjee, IUPUI (rbanerje@iupui.edu), 2008-2010

Board Member – Lea Berrang-Ford, McGill University (Lea.BerrangFord@McGill.ca), 2008-2010

Board Member – Eric Carter, Grinnell College (cartered@grinnell.edu), 2008-2010

Webmaster – Robert Earickson, University of Maryland at Baltimore County (Emeritus) (Robert.earickson@verizon.net)

Student Board Member – Leith Deacon, University of Western Ontario (Ideacon@uwo.ca), 2007-2009

Student Board Member – Debarchana Ghosh, University of Minnesota (ghos0033@umn.edu), 2008-2010

4) *Accomplishments* – Some of the major accomplishments that occurred during the past year include:

- a. A proposal for a name change from “Medical Geography Specialty Group (MGSG)” to “Health Geography Specialty Group (HGSG)” and Mission Statement reflecting the name change has been proposed to the membership who will vote in the upcoming months. The results from the voting will be announced at AAG 2009 in Las Vegas;
- b. Creation of a committee to establish a Student Paper Competition Award that will also be presented at the annual AAG meeting (apart from the existing Jacques May Prizes);
- c. Sponsorship at the 2011 International Medical Geography Symposium (IMGS) will be provided by Elsevier (publishing house for Social Science and Medicine);
- d. A position of Vice-Chair for the Nominations Committee is now open for appointment.

5) *Activities Scheduled* – MGSG business meeting in March 2009; active participation at the XIII IMGS to be held July 12-17, 2009 at McMaster University at Hamilton, Canada, as well as at the meeting of the next IGU Health and Environment Commission. The MGSG will provide funds for students attending the IMGS. The MSGS will also aim to sponsor the hosting of the XIV IMGS in the US. Elections for new board members planned. Encourage membership to organize sessions and present papers/posters, act as panelists.

6) *Future Plans and Directions* – See minutes below from this year's MGSG business meeting (2008), at the AAG in Boston, recorded by Bob Earickson, as well as item 5. Also, by-law changes regarding addition of a staggered Student Board Member position to be adopted, as well as any changes regarding proposal for name-change of the SG.

7) *Student Paper Awards* – The major awards that MSGS grants are the Jacques May Awards given to the best Master's level and PhD level theses. The award amounts are \$200 at the Master's level and \$300 at the doctoral level. In 2008, the Jacques May Award went to Daniel Harrington, McMaster University (Master's level prize). No award was given for the doctoral level prize.

In 2009, another student paper competition will open for undergraduates and Master's level students. The award will be for \$100 and the winner will receive a ticket to the awards banquet.

8) *Newsletter Information* – News from the MSGS is regularly updated on our website (above).

9) *2009 Meeting Plans* – Proposal of bylaw changes to be discussed (item 6); election results for new board members to be announced; announcements regarding the next two IMG symposia plans; findings of the two committees (see items 4b&4c); sponsorship of sessions.

10) *Membership and Participation* – MGSG currently has 311 paid members, 148 student members and 163 regular members.

11) *Financial Report* – MGSG has \$1,142.97 as of 10/31/08 (per Teri Martin – AAG manages the funds).

12) *Suggestions for Council* – We will inform you if our membership decides to change the name of our Specialty Group. No other suggestions at this time.

Thank you for your continued support.