

Association of Systematic Kinesiology in Ireland

Chairperson's Address 2013

By Bridget Mannion



Good morning, my name's Bridget Mannion, often known as Ted, and I've been Chairperson for the past three years.

Firstly, on behalf of the members I'd like to thank Siobhan, Kieran, Deirdre, Niamh and Clive for all of their hard work over this past year.

Member's Day is one of the highlights in my kinesiology year and I hope you feel the same. In particular I always look forward to the afternoon when we have our speakers and we have some fantastic people today who we're sure to learn a lot from. We have Rita-Anne Keyes, who's going to talk to us about "*Herbs for Kinesiologists*" and then after lunch Declan Kearney, will speak to us about "*Postural Analysis*". I think it's worth coming to Member's Day just for the speakers, although, I realize that most of you are more interested in the technicalities of this morning's AGM.

Last year I mentioned that the character of the Association felt like an adolescent, changing and maturing, and developing a strong sense of its own identity as it overcomes new challenges. Well this year, to some degree the Association has gone to college. We're all learning, studying and practising; we're trying our best to progress original research and we're involved in politics to a degree. We're defending the rights of Kinesiologists and the CAM sector as a whole. Through our involvement with FICTA and EFCAM we're doing our best to influence the attempt by Europe to erode our right to practice and to choose who we consult for our health care. The only thing missing from this Adolescent's "going to college" year is a long session in the pub, demos and occupying the Department of Health, but there's always next year! This is hard work and at times demanding and complicated but it's definitely worth the effort.

As members of ASK Ireland we can all be proud that we don't just complain about the erosion of civil rights and whine about what we don't like, we roll up our sleeves and try to do something about it, and that's special and sadly appears to be rare enough. But we are a rare breed. As Kinesiologists we bridge two worlds, the scientific and the esoteric – what some would describe as the "*airy fairy*" stuff. What we do is quite technical and difficult enough to learn, and master, involving a breadth of different areas of knowledge and understanding. But that's ok, we're smart, we're focused and we know what we want out of life – peace of mind, joy, beaming health and the opportunity to grow and learn. Of course we all need friendship, a supportive community and freedom of expression. I hope that your membership, your practice and today helps you achieve all of that.

Today you're going to hear from Deirdre, who's going to talk you through what the Council has been up to and the developments within the Association over the last year.

Kieran will be presenting the Treasurer's Report and will talk us through the finances of the Association, the income from membership fees, and expenditure.

Niamh will be presenting the Membership Report and will also talk about new membership categories that have come on line. At last year's AGM we proposed and membership agreed to the development of some new membership categories. The Council have developed new membership categories that we feel the Members may benefit from having available to them. Niamh will speak about that a bit later.

Last year at Members Day we had a brain storming session during which you provided us with feedback on the CPD scheme. We listened to what you said and there are some changes to the CPD Scheme we hope you'll approve of. Siobhan is going to talk you through this. The aim was to make the different categories easier to understand and as flexible as possible.

Finally, Clive will report on FICTA, what's been happening there and how we've managed to avoid occupying government buildings.

The Mastalgia Study is progressing and as usual it's progressing at a painfully slow pace, but that's research for you. The purpose of the study is to find undeniable, hard evidence that Systematic Kinesiology works. In order to do this we've looked at the design of the research with the eyes of someone who wants to find fault with it and pick holes in it, with an almost forensic level of analysis. Dr. Anne Matthews has been wonderful, especially for such an incredibly busy woman. Half the time when I'm trying to contact her she's Africa helping to train local women to act as midwives and to establish maternity units in places where there are none or she's up to her eyes marking papers and helping students with their research. She's a very impressive lady, and it's wonderful that she's interested in us and has managed to stay so involved. So thank you to Anne for that. The paperwork is with Dr. Matthews and we hope to acquire ethical approval from the DCU Ethics Committee to conduct the Pilot Study with the involvement of Dr. Matthews and DCU. As soon as we hear anything we'll let you know.

So to finish, the real highlight of course is meeting up with everyone here, touching base with old friends and colleagues, finding out about each other's lives and discussing topics we share a passion for, that not everybody will share the same passion for in the wider world. Member's Day is also a good opportunity for you to find out how your fellow members feel about issues that influence you all as professional Kinesiologists and people interested in complementary health. If you have something you'd like to contribute to a discussion I hope you feel free to chime in. If you have something you'd like to say to the Council in private then by all means approach one of these people here when you get an opportunity during the day and bring it to their attention and I promise you they'll listen.

That's enough from me. So thank you for the honour of being Chair for the past three years. I'm stepping down this year, and wish the new Council and Chair the very best of everything for the future.

Ted Mannion

Chairperson to ASK Ireland 2012-2013