



# A breath of fresh air: new office, new staff, new directions

*Dr Paul Filmore, Chairman*

Welcome to 2016. It seems a long time since I wrote my last editorial. Then everything seemed to be in flux. Now I am happy to report that things are settling down and we are developing our future plans.

Our biggest change has been to move from our transitional arrangements with Angela, as the temporary office manager, to our new situation. We now have our office in Colet House, London, up and running, and have our team of staff in place. Our two new members of staff are Chiara Reghellin, Office & Membership Manager ([chiara@scimednet.org](mailto:chiara@scimednet.org)) and Rodrigo Montenegro, Business Development Manager ([rodrigo@scimednet.org](mailto:rodrigo@scimednet.org)). This team is ably supported by our Board of Directors, David and Bruce, our web developer.

It is with sadness we mourn the passing of our treasurer Simon Raggett. Simon had given so much to helping with the SMN finances. We shall miss his enthusiasm at our meetings. A tribute to Simon is printed within this issue. Simon's passing leaves a vacancy in our ranks. If you are able to help with the treasurer role, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Our new office at Colet House is fully functional, after ongoing problems with the phone, after roadworks severed the lines. At Colet we have access to a number of meeting rooms, including a large lecture room for 200 people. We used one of the meeting rooms to good effect recently, when interviewing prospective office staff and later for their two day induction. My thanks go to all who were involved in the selection process including Marilyn, David, Richard, Gerri, Paul and Claudia.

Our IT systems (accounting, membership database and subscriptions) are undergoing a major upgrade. Thank you, Richard Irwin,

who has been leading this project, with David, Claudia and our two new office staff, aiding the process. The major part of this work is already completed and we are now integrating the membership information with the membership renewal web page. We are also looking to improve functionality on the members' area of the web, for instance improving the Members' Forum. For this project we have enlisted the help of a computing student from Plymouth University, to explore new technology opportunities.

At the end of January, the Board and officials of the Network meet for a weekend, to plan for the future. We have many ideas to discuss, including the possibility of online courses, developed from a Blaker project. We will also plan future meetings and activities. Do contact the Office or myself with any ideas or offers of support. We value your involvement. This is your Network!

## New members of staff are Chiara and Rodrigo:

**Chiara Reghellin:  
Office & Membership manager  
([chiara@scimednet.org](mailto:chiara@scimednet.org))**



Chiara is from Italy, has a PhD in literature, and over 10 years of administrative management, project management and sales and operations management experience. She has taught at university level and her most recent job was project managing English courses for a language school. She works 4 days a week at present. Due to Chiara's

direct experience, she will also support some of the schools & university outreach activities e.g., the Speaker Service. Chiara is thus our internal face, and will most likely be the person you will speak to if you phone the office.

Chiara writes: "My name is Chiara, I come from Vicenza, Italy. I graduated at the University of Trento (Euro-American Literature and Languages) in 2008 and I subsequently moved to England where I achieved a PhD in Literature (University of Essex, 2013). I have been living in London for almost 8 years with my family. I have worked as a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) in the department of Literature, Film and Theatre Studies of the University of Essex, and I have been the Sales and Operations Director of a school of languages for children, teens and families based in central London. I love reading, visiting museums and exhibitions, cooking, walking, swimming and knitting."

**Rodrigo Montenegro:  
Business Development Manager  
([rodrigo@scimednet.org](mailto:rodrigo@scimednet.org))**



Rodrigo is Brazilian, and has worked for Orange Business Services for over 11 years and has other business, online marketing and charity experience. He is skilled in IT and works alongside Richard (our website & IT Board member), fulfilling a growing need in this area to provide more functionality to network with our members and the public. Rodrigo is our outward looking face. He is working 3 days a week for us and in his free time working on a part-time Masters in Psychology.

Rodrigo writes: "I have a keen interest in altered states of consciousness since a young age. Personal experiences triggered my interest in the scientific study of Out-of-the-Body Experiences (OBEs) and Near-Death-Experiences (NDEs). I am currently doing a master in Psychology at the Roehampton University with the objective to research on the neurophysiological correlates of OBEs and subsequently do a PhD in the subject. I have previously worked as a key account service manager and been a successful consultant in the telecommunications industry. In more recent years, I have developed an innovative concept and technology platform for a start-up business to sponsor charities through cashback based on John Nash theory of Equilibrium (1994 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences)".



Paul with member Eric Spain and spouses in Hong Kong for a conference