



# The SMN needs You!

*Dr Paul Filmore, Chairman*  
*chairman@scimednet.org*

In my last editorial in January, I said that things were settling down. All the news is good: we are getting to grips with our administration systems, we had an excellent visioning weekend with 17 directors and officers, and our Mystics & Scientists conference in April was a sell out!

It was good to meet so many of you at the Mystics & Scientists conference. We had a rare visit from Jenny Blaker (daughter of one of our founders), who was over briefly from the USA. At the conference we started to introduce some changes of approach, which we hope will allow all of you an equal voice. To this end we organised café style seating and, at appropriate moments, the 'tables' discussed amongst themselves the latest session, then gave feedback/ dialogue online, as well as via the microphone. The online

comments worked well, after a few initial teething problems. We would like to develop this further, so that in the future we have good feedback, questioning, and dialogue from everyone who wishes to be involved. This has the potential to continue after the conference or meeting has finished. At an appropriate point, such comments can be formulated into a 'White Paper', a publishable paper synthesising all views and key points. This may, for example, highlight specific research that needs to be undertaken. I believe this is the way to help our meetings have a focussed joint publishable output. For this to happen effectively in the future, it will help if you are able to bring your iPads, internet enabled phones etc., and to check in advance that you can log into the SMN website. We will then make sure we hear from everyone and your views are captured!

To develop the SMN website facilities further, please look out for an email with details of how to login to the new web site. It is important you follow these instructions [to create a new login name and password](#), unless you have done this recently. Your old login name will not work on the new system. This change has to be made for technical reasons. Note that when you set up a new login name, you will be directed to our <https://explore.scimednet.org> site, but when all the current upgrades have been completed, our present site <https://www.scimednet.org/> will automatically take over.

Some of the directors have been working on a new draft of our vision (see the box). We would be interested in your feedback.

## The Scientific and Medical Network: Our Vision (draft for comment)

*We believe that a better, more intelligent and more heart-led world is possible – a world in which the wisdom of spirituality and the thoughtfulness of philosophy balance the power of science and technology.*

*We recognise that our world is still plagued by deep problems and enduring conflicts. Many of these are caused by dogmatic, superstitious or ill-informed worldviews. However, we believe that individuals and societies can transform themselves. The key is learning to integrate evidence-based science, born of rational philosophy, with the love and inner peace cultivated by spiritual practice. The Scientific and Medical Network is a community of professionals dedicated to this task.*

*It is our view that no single idea or solution has a monopoly on truth. Our events and publications therefore create spaces for the sharing of different ideas and experiences in a fellowship of deep listening, dialogue and mutual trust.*

*We invite you to join us in co-creating new paradigms to bring truth, beauty, health and well-being into harmony, and so help heal our fractured culture.*

Further on the theme of 'the SMN needs you', there are many opportunities for individual members to be more involved directly. There is always need for more help at the conferences, for example in manning our popular book stall. At Mystics we had a full house and so all the help members provided was greatly appreciated. Other opportunities for being involved range from: sponsoring a young person to attend a conference, becoming a director (for instance to help develop our programme of events), helping instigate a new subject specialist online forum, and editing or classifying our video database for online improvements. In addition, we need a new treasurer to help advise the Board. If there is any way you may be able to help, then please contact me (or Chiara in the office). I will be pleased to hear from you.

Finally, I very much look forward to welcoming you to our annual gathering meeting, starting on the 8<sup>th</sup> July, at Horsley Park, in Surrey.

*Delegates at Mystics & Scientists*

