

## **Editorial - New Educational Initiative**

**Peter Fenwick and Max Payne**

The Scientific and Medical Network is registered as an educational charity and has always taken its educational role very seriously. While the charity was young and growing rapidly, there was little opportunity to start a major educational initiative. However, now that we have over two and a half thousand full and associate members, the Board of Trustees and Council felt that it was time to turn their attention to the educational role of the Network. In addition, new ideas relating to consciousness, the development of mankind, and post-modern science are developing quickly. Up to the present time, the Network has been able to keep abreast of these ideas and at times to lead in their development. Now, however, the pace of change is so great that it is difficult for members always to be informed about new ideas.

Our present educational outreach extends to conferences and smaller meetings, and in the past we have run a residential 'Wider Horizons' course for young people from 18-25. The Trustees and Council now feel it is important to start a new educational initiative so that these new ideas can be disseminated as widely as possible. Following a two day meeting of members of the Council and Trustees last year, educationalist JOAN WALTON was given the task of mapping out a programme for an educational initiative and was asked to submit a business plan to the Council for verification, which would then be forwarded to the Trustees for funding.

Joan has submitted a very important plan that fulfils the vision of the Network. The Trustees have agreed to fund the setting up of the educational initiative with the necessary financial safeguards. GEORGE BLAKER has given his full support to the project, and has also lent his name to it; the new educational initiative will be called the Blaker Foundation.

This is an exciting new initiative and the Council and Trustees ask for your support and help. The educational programme will require an input from many Network members and we do hope that you will be able to support it both with your knowledge and your time. The Centre will be self-financing and we hope, when it is up and running, that it will also make a financial contribution to the Network.

Both the Council and Trustees would like to wish Joan Walton well with this new venture. She has written about the Centre more fully in the article which follows and she would be delighted to hear from anyone who feels they can help in any way so as to involve as many members as possible.