
EASE Business

More sponsors needed!

As many of you know, for several years EASE has run a sponsorship scheme enabling people from countries with financial constraints to benefit from full membership of the Association. Its success is due to the generosity of members who kindly pay a subscription (half the full rate) for someone to be sponsored. Each year, those sponsored are asked to re-apply and sponsors are asked if they wish to continue, as circumstances often change in the interim, so there is no long term commitment either way.

At the moment we have 17 sponsored members from seven different countries in Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe, but it would be good to increase this number –

for which I need both candidates and sponsors! So if you know of anyone who you think would particularly benefit from membership but is unable to pay the fee, do encourage them to apply. And equally, if you would like to sponsor someone, please get in touch with me. Feel free to specify any particular area of interest or country, but “general” sponsors are also much appreciated. I would like to build up a “bank” of sponsors on whom I can call as and when the need arises. I look forward to being inundated!

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Membership Changes

New Members

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Any help in making contact again would be much appreciated

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Formerly of: CIC Research & Growers
Services Division, UKARUMP
Papua New Guinea, and
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Marie-Louise Desbarats-Schönbaum (1921-2008)



Doctor Marie-Louise Desbarats-Schönbaum escaped peacefully from the ravages of a lengthy illness on the evening of 27 February 2008, at the Zorghotel in Veghel near her home in Venhorst, the Netherlands.

Marie-Louise was a scientist educated in the biomedical sciences at McGill University (BSc 1942, MSc 1953) in her hometown of Montréal, and at the University of Utrecht (PhD 1970) in the Netherlands. She was somewhat of a pioneer, one of only two women in the class of 1929 obtaining an MSc in biochemistry. One of her subsequent papers was highly cited (*The specificity of brain choline acetylase, Br J Pharmacol*, 1956).

She met Doctor Eduard Schönbaum (born in Vienna) in Montréal, where they married in 1953. They later moved to Holland, where Ed's father had been a refugee in the 1930s.

She and Ed (who died in December 2000) began their life-long involvement in biomedical research and teaching at the University of Toronto, continuing in Holland for the last 35 years, where Marie-Louise applied her talents to scientific writing, editing, and translating even into the last year before her death.

I had the privilege to work with Marie-Louise for EASE. She was a member of the ESE editorial board and was very active, adding accurate comments to all our discussions. We had a lot of fun as we were both used to have “en aparté” during the meetings with some private comments in French about these British who lead the world... Marie-Louise remained brilliant in her 80s with new ideas and she was always talkative when I called her late at night, after she had rested in her swimming pool!

We both wrote papers for ESE, and for years she took care of the book reviews, tracking new books from publishers and then gently harassing reviewers to get the work done on time. She always delivered the book reviews on time without any reminders, and the editorial board always listened to her accurate comments.

Marie-Louise valued clear thinking, detested fuss, and encouraged the younger generation to develop their potential through education. She was well travelled and cosmopolitan, but also created a cosy home alive with her beloved kitties and enchanted garden and woodland, where visitors were always welcome. She will be remembered for the warmth of her hospitality, her love of music, her prolific sewing, and for her independent, curious, and often humorous outlook on life.

Hervé Maisonneuve
ESE editor (2000-2006)

New members of ESE Publications Committee



Sharon Davies (Reports of Meetings and Forthcoming Meetings; United Kingdom) is letters and obituaries editor at the *BMJ*. Armed with an honours degree in physiology from St Andrews, she studied for a PhD in reproductive physiology at the Physiological Laboratory in Cambridge.

After four years she was shocked to find she had very little to show for it, despite being surrounded by “names” in the tea room, so she decided to seek her fortune without any letters after her name. She worked for three years as a technician in what was then the department of pharmacology at St George's Hospital Medical School in Tooting—a kind of scientific rehabilitation—and she discovered that she found the communication of results the best part of research. She jumped at the chance of training as a technical editor with the *BMJ*. That was in 1987, and she hasn't looked back since. Being a member of EASE was a perk of the job at the *BMJ* from the beginning, and Sharon has enjoyed meeting kindred spirits fascinated by editing at four association conferences.



Stuart Handsides (Original articles; United Kingdom) is a general practitioner and medical editor. He studied medicine at University College London, then trained and practised as a GP for several years. In 1992 he went to the *BMJ* as an editorial registrar, and became a member of EASE. As

the medical editor at the Public Health Laboratory Service's Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre he was responsible for weekly and monthly editions of the *Communicable Disease Report* and played a central role in developing *Eurosurveillance* and *Communicable Disease and Public Health*. In 2000 he organised a symposium on measuring reader satisfaction for the EASE conference in Tours. He returned to general practice the same year and became an associate editor of ProMED-mail (www.promedmail.org), an internet facility that provides early warnings of emerging infectious diseases. He has been an occasional columnist for *General Practitioner* newspaper, and contributes to a local writers' group. His other activities include running and cycling, long distance walks, stage acting, gardening, and playing guitars.