

Professor Susan Jebb ASO Honorary Fellowship Award Winner

Professor Susan Jebb has been an outstanding supporter and champion of the ASO as well as an international expert in the field of obesity, working at the interface of science and policy.

Susan has been an active member of ASO since 1989. She was co-opted to the Education subcommittee in the 1992 and established ORIC; the Obesity Resource and Information Centre, a central hub for media enquiries on obesity. She was the first ASO communications officer, standing for around five years, and wrote the first set of ASO fact sheets. Susan was deputy chair, then chair from 1999-2005. She organised and published a major stakeholder consultation on priorities for obesity policy, "Towards a Leaner, Fitter Future" raising the profile of the organisation and established ASO as the Secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Obesity. Later she was acted as interim chair for a year during which time she formalised the role of trustees, preparing the first trustee manual and worked closely with the incoming chair to initiate the ASO strategic review. As a long-standing committee member, she has organised six ASO one-day meetings. In 2014 she was on the organising committee for the first UKCO.

Susan has made an outstanding contribution to public policy on obesity. She was the lead scientific advisor on the Foresight Report, which presented scientific evidence on the causes of obesity to government, the costs of inaction and crucially a framework for a strategic policy response. As chair of the Department of Health Expert Advisory Group on Obesity, she advocated for and provided scientific input on two successive obesity strategies with governments of different political persuasions. Susan was the independent chair of the Responsibility Deal that saw the introduction of calorie labelling on menus and front of pack and began the policy process to stimulate reformulation to reduce calories.

Susan is sought after as a mentor and supervisor to many ASO members. As sole supervisor, she has supervised eight PhD students and one MD student, with four further co-supervised doctoral students and five ongoing. As an MRC programme Leader in Cambridge she developed and led a team of post-doctoral researchers, all now pursuing independent careers in academia and public health. In Oxford, she is growing a similar team.

Susan has a very strong scientific output. Early on, she was awarded the ASO and EASO 'Young Investigator' awards and has now published over 250 scientific publication (h-index=75), including two papers in The Lancet in the past year. She is the programme lead for the £4.5 million Diet and Obesity theme of the Oxford NIHR Biomedical Research Centre and a similar theme in the Oxford CLAHRC and leading major trials. Susan is in demand as a speaker, presenting with characteristic enthusiasm and commitment at international and national obesity conferences (including keynote at UKCO 2016), as well as to audiences of policymakers, industry and the public. She is also one of the strongest independent voices on obesity in the media.