

**Minutes for AAAGP Ordinary Members Meeting
4.30pm Thursday 24 May 2007
Sydney Convention Centre**

1 **Attendance:** C Johnson, M Pirota, L Sancu, N Glasgow, J Emery, G Gill, G Somers, D Young, J Sims, E Jackson Bowers, W Brodbribb, E McIntyre, K Hegarty, C Jackson, J Doust, N Zwar, J Furler, P Schattner, T Snowdon, J Gunn, P Magin, N Paterson, T Brett, D Mutton, M Nelson, D Pond, G Horton, L Naccarella, H Britt, G Miller, M Kljakovic, J Shephard, Yun-Hee Jeon, D Askew, Nigel Stocks

2 **Apologies:** C Del Mar

3 **Minutes of Last Meeting:** Accepted J Emery, E McIntyre

4 **Business Arising:** none

5 **General Business**

5.1 **Presidents Report**

Mark reported that there is lots of activity within A3GP. He is receiving 2 -3 letters a month inviting members to represent on committees. There are still a number of subscriptions to be paid and we need a minimum of 120 financial members to underwrite the association and cover Debbie's wages. The administration assistant has really assisted in moving the association forward. Debbie and Graeme were commended for their work on the Newsletter.

5.2 **Treasurer's Report**

Our funds are remaining stable with 90 financial members to date. There is a steady flow of new member applications each month (2-4) however, still around 50 members who have not paid this year's fees. We still need more members and all present at the meeting were reminded to encourage membership within their departments.

5.3 **Working Parties Report**

5.3.1 **Increased Student Placements**

Jon Emery, Steve Trumble, Dimity and Mark are pushing this issue with Jon as the driving force. It expected there will be an increase of approx 3500 students and new models of teaching are needed. GPET & DoHA will be conducting a summit in Melbourne for discussions and workshops. Members were strongly encouraged to attend. After this summit, representatives from A3GP will then go to Canberra with the results of this summit and present them to the minister Tony Abbott.

5.3.2 **Registrar Curriculum**

This was not specifically discussed however Dimity raised the issue that the RRADO position has not yet been filled.

Action: Jane to contact Rebecca Quake to see if she is interested.

Jane Gunn

GPET had previously contacted her to conduct a 3 day registrar research conference as RRADO used to do this. Kelsey recommended that A3GP have a speaker at this conference and Nick Zwar volunteered.

5.4

Membership

5.4.1 New members

Hubert van Doorn (PHCRED – Melb Uni) was accepted into membership

5.4.2 Numbers/Payments

See Treasurer's report 5.2. All members with fees due have been emailed two reminders.

5.4.3 Overseas Members Discount

Mark recommended the same fee as the registrars as \$33. All those present agreed.

5.4.4 Members Survey

There were 78 respondents to the survey and most were engaged in research and/or teaching. It appears we are not attracting "teachers only" so this is an area we could work on.

There appears to be a disparity interesting membership of AAAGP between teachers and researchers. A3GP's current focus is not on vocational training. Geoff Mitchell stated that vocational training is well catered for by GPET. He recommended we target teaching colleagues in university departments. Geoff also suggested we identify members who are predominantly teachers and encourage them to advocate membership in A3GP.

A discussion ensued around who we should target? And it became evident that no one body represents clinical teachers in GP (e.g. PBL tutors).

Action: Dimity and Nerida to talk to PBL tutors at Newcastle Uni and bring back their findings to the AGM.

Dimity/Nerida

It was also suggested that we need clarification of what level of teachers we represent. A3GP also needs to determine what services they want and then ensure we can provide the support e.g. training.

The issue was also raised of non GP researchers who are contributing to general practice. We need to look at other depts. A3GP used to have a large % of non GPs.

The committee also agreed that we need to determine what depts are primarily represented by A3GP and then identify a member who can do a membership drive.

5.5

Newsletter

Graeme stated he would like to receive more articles from members and thanked those who have contributed so far. Graeme said he would like to hear about such things as: collaborations between depts, successes and challenges in research/teaching and how GPs are recruited into research. All ideas/articles will be considered.

5.6

Website

Debbie stated that she is no longer getting time to add information to our website. Most present at the meeting agreed that it is serving its purpose of informing others and about who we are what we do and that it is also a good place to store documents. There is an average of 100-150 'hits' per month. Libby Kalucy suggested PHCRIS collaborate. We need to have clear distinctions and not overlap with information.

might be able to support A3GP and their website. We would need to have clear distinctions about the information we distribute. Further discussions will be necessary.

5.7 **Travelling Fellowship**

This closes on 31 August 2007 and there will be a reminder in the next newsletter. All members were encouraged to advertise within their departments.

5.8 **AAAGP (Eponymous) Medal**

Mark proposed a medal for outstanding contribution to teaching and or research in primary care. There would be an initial cost but minimal ongoing costs. It was agreed this is a good idea and worthwhile for the profile of A3GP.

Action: Mark to look at costs and ways to raise funds needed.

Mark

6 **Other Business**

6.1 **Research Quality Framework**

A discussion ensued and Impact Factors were identified as key issues. Members were encouraged to quote each other in publications as we don't do this nearly as much as specialists do. GPs are not serving own interests. There is an increasing demand for external expertise so it is important that we organise ourselves. Comments/criticisms in reviews are important to help raise the profile of general practice and also to develop international collaboration. We have to "play the game" with Citations Index so we won't be assess by other disciplines.

Chris Van Weel recommended there be a HODs meeting in WONCA with international general practice depts.

Action: Mark to write to Chris Van Weel supporting the Wonca HODs meeting idea.

Mark

Jane suggested A3GP be represented at WONCA workshops/presentations.

Action: Committee to discuss at next meeting.

Committee

There was some discussion on the structure of the NHMRC panels and how PHC & Population Health had been collapsed into one. This concerns some members. Both Nick and Nigel feel confident that PHC grants won't be farmed out to inappropriate disciplines. Apparently There is still a PHC panel which includes Dimity and Marjan. Those present agreed it would be helpful to receive some clarification as to how the panels were created. Nick stated that the process was good but communication was lacking. The combination of PHC & Population Health occurred because there weren't enough PHC applications for the past year.

6.2 **Dept Health Grants**

Nigel raised the issue about the last round of grants where people still haven't been told of the outcome. There has been a lot of effort put in by all applicants but the process has been delayed with no communication creating frustration. The community needs to be informed as to how this public money is going to be spent.

Action: Mark to write a letter to Dept of Health.

Mark

7 **Meeting closed 5.35pm.**