

Minutes of the AAAPC Committee Teleconference

1 December 2009

1. Attendance: Jon Emery , Joachim Sturmberg, Faline Howes, Richard Reed, Dimity pond , Marjan Kljakovic Sarah Dennis , Marie Pirotta, Deb Askew and Kitty Novy
2. Apologies: Vicky Palmer, Moyez Jiwa
3. Minutes of last meeting of the AAAPC – 20 October 2009 agreed.
4. Business Arising
 - 4.1 Progress report on tasks requiring attention following the name change:
 - 4.1.1 The wording for flyer AAAPC – no final version has been prepared. Kitty and Vicky are working on this. There is a problem with finding images, Kitty will email Ellen to see if there are conference photos that might be used. We need about ten from which a selection of five or six can be made. Kitty to collect a bank of photos and allow a selection at the next meeting. Kitty to prepare a draft of the text from the suggestions made by the committee.
 - 4.1.2 The Statutory Declarations – the letter to the bank has now been signed and has been returned to Kitty.
 - 4.2 The AAAPC Travel Scholarship – Julia Walters has presented a strong application, with a budget of \$3,475. Jon will write and congratulate her on winning the award.
 - 4.3 12 November 2009 conference on GPSCs - no committee members attended, it was by invitation only and you had to have won a bid for a GPSC to be invited.
 - 4.4 Report from the working sub group reviewing the selection criteria of the first time presenter award – it should make clear that the paper must be a research paper (with methodology and data): this should be clearly identified as a qualifying criterion for those wishing to be considered for the award. So it will be amended to First Time Presenter Award for 'Best Research Paper'. The form needs to be amended to "AAAPC Criteria for the Best Research Paper by a First Time Presenter"
5. The Newsletter – Sarah advises that it is nearly complete. Will include an announcement on the Travelling Scholarship. Kitty will email the application to Sarah so that she can write up this announcement. Kitty suggested that we have an ongoing column on members' recently published books. The newsletter will include a request
6. General Business
 - 6.1 Membership
 - 6.1.1 New members: Irene Blackberry, Rebecca Farley, Alan Wright, Robert Morehead and Emily Farrell.
 - 6.1.2 Finances: update concerning members with unpaid accounts for 2009. Two of the twelve outstanding members have paid up. Jon has not had time to write to the members but will discuss this with Kitty after the meeting. We have \$24,000 in current account. Members can now pay their subscriptions electronically.
 - 6.1.3 .RACGP Council – Jon has been unable to speak with Nigel Stocks concerning AAAPC representation on Council. Marie advised that there was no news from the NSC-R, the President's view is that the College had very good representation of research at all levels. However she is still pushing for an AAAPC rep and will report back on progress at the next meeting.

The alternative is more active lobbying of Council members about AAAPC issues before each meeting. Debbie queried why there was only a one and a half hour session for research at the College conference. Jon advised it was to ensure that the papers received an audience and could enjoy quality papers if not a great quantity of such papers. Marie asked: where is the GP conference this year? – answer: in Cairns. Marie suggested inviting Tauran Gupta to our next teleconference so that he could update the committee. Jon is to contact him and invite him to the next AAAPC teleconference.

6.2 Communications to President

6.2.1 Letter from Marlene Shepherd of the Medical Journal of Australia asking if the AAAPC would circulate a 'broadcast email' for 'expressions of interest' for the role of Editor of the Medical Journal of Australia. Jon saw this as a reasonable request.

6.2.2 There was a discussion on whether the AAAPC should have a formal policy on what it should circulate to members. Academic posts are often advertised to members. In the past it has been decided not to send out attachments, instead just links to websites are sent out. The main criterion has to be relevance to research and training in the field of primary care.

6.2.3 Robert Hale has sent in a draft policy of the GPET 'Academic Post Policy' for discussion. GPET now has no AAAPC representative on their board and it has become a very internal thinking body that reports almost exclusively to the Commonwealth. There then followed a discussion of the draft policy: The opening page advises that the purpose of the policy is to provide regional training providers and registrars guidelines on academic posts ignoring the fact that University departments, who support the them, might also be interested in this. All rely on a good relationship with university departments. It seems to provide eligibility criteria but little else. The whole process lacks structure which is regrettable as it does have impact, long term for the discipline. There is a lack of consultation. Jon is not sure about the current funding agreement as it does not seem to map onto any university salary scale and so universities have to provide additional funds as the salary is being calculated at the bizarre rate of \$55 per hour. It should also allow for university infrastructure charges let alone any funding to cover supervisory costs. They are underfunded at present, should move away from a GP registrar salary scale to a university salary scale. It has ceased to be attractive to have registrars as the universities do not have the cash to subsidise these posts. The components of the funding need to be clarified. The timing of the application process needs to co-ordinate clinical posts and academic posts. We should ask for an AAAPC representative on their awards committee. Should there be teaching specific posts or should all posts always involve research? The consensus appeared to be that research was essential to academic posts. Whatever strategy the AAAPC has for getting people to be academic the ultimate goal must be to increase research activity and research participation. Jon will provide feedback to GPET.

6.3 Non-Clinical Academics

6.3.1 Suggestions for advertising our activities for our non-GP members – adjourned until next meeting.

6.4 Primary Care in the UK and the USA

The UK Society for Academic Primary Care and the North American Primary Care Group have a reciprocal arrangement whereby their successful distinguished papers are presented annually at each other's conferences. Should the AAAPC look into this as an option for the GP&PHC conference? It would enhance our conference and encourage international attendance. What are the cost implications? Would it mean funding the cost of flights and hotel accommodation? Vicky to lead a discussion on this. Adjourned until next meeting.

7. The next meeting: 16 February 2010 @ 12 noon EST

8. Other Business

ASSIGNED ACTIONS

Jon is to:

- write and congratulate Julia Walters on winning the travelling scholarship award.
- discuss this with Kitty after the 1 December 2009 meeting what action to take regarding members with unpaid accounts for 2009. Only two of the twelve outstanding members have paid up.
- invite Tauran Gupta to the next AAAPC teleconference so that he can update the committee on relevant developments with the RACGP Council, and
- provide feedback to GPET on the AAAPC discussion of Robert Hale's draft policy of the GPET 'Academic Post Policy'.

Kitty is to:

- email Ellen to see if there are conference photos that might be used for the AAAPC flyer
- collect a bank of photos and allow a selection at the next meeting
- prepare a draft of the text from the suggestions made by the committee to allow a selection at the next meeting, and
- email the travelling scholarship application of Julia Walters to Sarah so that she can write up this as an announcement.

Sarah is to:

- introduce into the Newsletter an ongoing column on members' recently published books. The December 2009 newsletter will include a request for members to advise the AAAPC of their recently published works.