

Minutes of the AAAPC Committee Teleconference
Held 13 April 2010 @ 12 midday (EST)

1. Attendance: Jon Emery, Richard Reed, Ellen McIntyre, Marie Pirotta, Sarah Dennis , Deb Askew, Failine Howes, Joachim Sturmborg Kitty Novy.

2. Apologies: Dimity Pond, Moyez Jiwa, Marjan Kljakovic

3. Minutes of last meeting of the AAAPC – 16 March 2010 minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Business Arising:

4.1 The AAAPC flyer – update from Kitty, adjourned to the next meeting.

4.2 The latest on the GPET's latest draft of its policy for Academic Registrars. Jon is to write to GPET and re-iterate the points that the AAAPC has previously made.

4.3 Medicare and the training of medical students – Jon has just received a detailed statement from Medicare which appears to be quite worrying. Jon will circulate the email. It appears that there are lots of Medicare items that will be funded only if the GP carries out the work and not the student. Thus a GP can only bill for the suturing of a wound if she/he and not the student has done the dominant portion of the suturing. This raises a number of issues:

Are GPs aware of this provision and if not are they in danger of being charged by Medicare for 'incorrect billing'

Will students get appropriate experience if Medicare is placing these barriers to students learning procedures in General Practice

This issue has potentially important educational implications, especially in the rural practice. The AAAPC has to decide whether to raise this with The College. This is an issue for intern training and student placements with GPs, but it is different for registrar training as they have their own provider number. At least the Medicare document should be sent round to all heads of department and leave them to decide how to respond locally. To take matters further the AAAPC would need to make representations to Medicare and DOHA. The alternative route would be to try and get PIT payments increased to more realistic levels. This will go on the agenda for the next HoDs meeting. Jon to send the email to Kitty for circulation.

5. The Newsletter – update from Sarah on content and publication. It will be finalised this Friday and then sent out.

6. General Business

6.1 Membership

6.1.1 New members: None

6.1.2 Finances: \$19,344. Another reminder is going out this week about unpaid subscriptions

6.2 Communications to President

6.2.1 None, save Medicare discussed above.

7. The Darwin Conference

7.1 The Program of Events and Publicity for the Conference – update from Ellen: The website is being constantly updated and now includes a preliminary program. We have 367 abstracts submitted, a record but only 132 slots. The abstracts are being peer reviewed at the moment. We also have 29 abstracts for the AAAPC distinguished paper. The deadline for the scores is today so that the papers can be allocated to the program. The AAAPC will select two papers out of 29, the others will be considered if they have submitted a separate abstract but not all of the 29 have complied with this. The AAAPC has not quite completed the scoring of the 29 papers, approximately 20 have only one score. 4 have been deemed ineligible. Sarah, Faline and Deb volunteered to score additional papers. Kitty to send the scores to Jon, once the scoring has been completed. Dimity has found two outstanding papers which she wants others to look at. Next year, for Brisbane, this should be done earlier. Generally, the standard of abstracts appears to be very high but not all agreed. It was suggested that the AAAPC could give more guidance, perhaps next year we could provide links to this year's best papers.

7.2 Bookings for the Dinner – update from Kitty: The dinner is booked, we will have the outside area and will have audio equipment available. We still need a speaker for the dinner. The registrations are fairly low at the moment which is normal so details of international attendees may have to wait. We could invite one of the key note speakers to speak after the dinner. Jon suggests that we invite Noel Hayman.

7.3 The Key Note Speakers – Noel Hayman (who will give the AAAPC key note speaker within the conference), Jim Primrose, and Colin Tonga have all accepted.

7.4 The Bridges-Webb Medal – three nominations received so far. Previous winners are excluded but might be useful in assessing nominations for current years. Jon is to contact Jane and Mark to ask if they would be willing to judge nominations for this year. Kitty will email members again. There are about three more nominations pending.

7.5 Judging the First Time Presenters Award – too early yet to work out the numbers. When abstracts are accepted, the presenter is then asked if they are eligible for this award.

7.6 The AAAPC AGM – this is down for the Thursday, to start at 5.15pm and it needs to finish at 6.15pm as the conference dinner is set for sunset at the Yachting club and attendees will need to be bussed to the dinner. It was decided to bring the start forward to 5pm.

Jon mentioned a possible lunchtime session focussing on whether the AAAPC should be pushing the NHRC and the ARC for a separate field of research for primary health care. Ellen agreed to slot this in and suggests this might be best on the Wednesday: AAAPC discussion on the need for a separate field of research for primary health care. Jon will invite a couple of people to lead the discussion: Jane, possibly Nick Glasgow and Oliver Frank.

There are still a few slots available for breakfast meetings. The HoDs breakfast meeting will be 7.45 to 8.45 on the Wednesday.

8. The next meeting: 11 May 2010. Jon will be overseas. Jon is to ask Dimity to chair this meeting.

9. Other Business:

9.1 The website and problems with emails. Kitty reported on problems with the email mailing of members. The AAAPC only pays to enable the reading of 300 emails every hour. Kitty advised that everyone has now been re-enabled. The current website cost is \$120 per year and to upgrade it to handle a greater volume of emails would cost \$300 per year. Kitty is to look into the process of upgrading the website to avoid this occurring again.

9.2 Finding a new Victorian representative. John Furler would be delighted to join the committee but would never be available on a Tuesday as he has a clinic commitment. Kitty to speak with John Furler find out when he could be available and then consult with executive members over a possible change of time and day of the week. Otherwise we may need to think about an alternative Victorian representative.

9.3 The Fellowship Report. Julia has asked if she could present at another occasion rather than this AGM as she won't have been able to do much prior to the AGM. Jon suggested we ask her to present at Brisbane next year.

ALLOCATED ACTIONS

Jon is to:

- write to GPET and re-iterate the points that the AAAPC has previously made about its policy for Academic Registrars
- send the Medicare statement on the training of medical students to Kitty for circulation to all executive members and he will also ensure that it goes on the agenda for the next HoDs meeting
- contact Jane and Mark to ask if they would be willing to judge nominations for this year's Bridges-Webb Medal
- formally invite Noel Hayman to be the after dinner speaker at the AAAPC dinner
- invite Jane, possibly Nick Glasgow and Oliver Frank to lead a discussion at a lunchtime session focussing on whether the AAAPC should be pushing the NHRC and the ARC for a separate field of research for primary health care, and
- ask Julia to present her account of the Travel Fellowship at next year's conference in Brisbane..

Kitty it to:

- send out to the committee members a final version of the new AAAPC flyer
- put out a final call to all members for nominations for the Bridges-Webb Medal
- look into the process of upgrading the website to allow more emails to be read simultaneously
- to speak with John Furler, find out when he could be available and then consult with executive members over a possible change of time and day of the week for future executive committee meetings.

