

MINUTES OF THE 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMIC PRIMARY CARE
Held at the PHC Research Conference in DARWIN
on Thursday 1 July 2010

1. **Attendance:** The meeting was chaired by Jon Emery. For a list of all in attendance, see attached list.
2. **Apologies:** Faline Howes, Claire Jackson, Caroline Johnson, Julia Walters, Doris Young, Jane Gunn, Steve Trumble, Lena Sancic, Irene Blackberry, Liz Farmer, John Kramer, Brett Montgomery, Tarun Sen Gupta, Paul Grinzi, Joel Rhee, Jan Radford, Leon Piterman, JNParikh, Michael Kidd
3. **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the AAAGP AGM, held on 16th July 2009 at the Melbourne Convention Centre were approved, subject to one amendment: Eugen Molodysky is to be added to the list of attendees - Marie Pirotta and Marjan Kljakovic approved the minutes
4. **General Business**
 - 4.1 **President's report:** The Association has a new name, a new domain name and an updated and revised website. The president commented on the growth of a member discussion forum, stated that it is valued by the Association, and that it will be better facilitated by an improved server capacity. At the AAAPC dinner, Mark Harris was awarded the Bridges-Webb award. Membership is continuing to expand, there are now a growing number of non-GP academic primary care researchers. Marie Pirotta was complimented for her work as treasurer. Sarah Dennis was praised for the ongoing production of the AAAPC Newsletter. The Executive Committee, as a whole, was thanked for its work throughout the year; mention was made of the work it has carried out lobbying on research training issues at GPET level and on the ever developing PHCRED strategy. A special thanks to Kitty Novy for all her administrative work.
 - 4.2 **Treasurer's report:** The accounts have been circulated. Marie Pirotta advised that the Association remains healthily solvent, \$32,000 in credit. She commented on \$7,000 of 'accounts receivable', which will be written off. She advised that the Association will not be claiming back it's GST. Funding comes from membership, current members are encouraged to recruit new members.

4.3 Office Bearers 2010/2011:

Jon Emery stood down as President after two years in the office.

Dimity was appointed as the new President, and

Jon Emery was appointed as Secretary.

The Executive Committee will therefore be comprised as follows:

President: Dimity Pond

Secretary: Jon Emery

Treasurer: Marie Pirotta

Editor of the Newsletter: Sarah Dennis

Conference Convenor: Ellen McIntyre

State Representatives:

West Australia: Jon Emery

Victoria: .Danielle

New South Wales: Joachim Sturmborg

Queensland: Deb Askew

ACT: Marjan Klakovic

Tasmania: Faline Howes

South Australia: Richard Reed

There is still a need for a representative for the Northern Territory.

5. Other Business

5.1. Fields of Research in grant applications: Jon Emery advised that there is no formal four digit code F.O.R. for primary health care. It would be possible to lobby for such a code and highlight the very small amount of primary health care research being carried out in Australia. Geoff Mitchell commented that it is a battle worth fighting, that the issue needs highlighting. Jon suggested that the involvement of Jane Gunn was important. The executive committee will continue to explore this issue during the coming year.

5.2. AAAPC closer ties with colleagues and friends in New Zealand. Mark Harris commented that the name change had been welcomed in New Zealand. Dimity to write to Bruce Aroll to explore ways of strengthening the relationship.

5.3. Electronic discussion forum. This is an important facility for the AAAPC to provide for its members. It was suggested that members adopt the protocol of using clear headers indicating that the email is part of the discussion forum. There will be an increase in the capacity to send emails once payment is made to Lunar pages. This will happen after the conference

5.4. Future PHCRED strategy. This was raised at the HoDs meeting but nobody present knew the details of the proposed 'new strategy'. The problem is that the RCBI funding, previously the mainstay for research in small departments of General Practice and

UDRHs, is morphing into some sort of competitive process. We do not know that the process is and clarity is needed. Dimity asked the meeting for ideas as to what the AAAPC should be saying to the Government about this.

There are many ideas in place which need the sign off from senior members of the department. Those who have attended working groups have been asked to treat the discussions as confidential. It was suggested that the AAAPC send a delegation to Canberra. This might be a joint delegation from the HoDs and the AAAPC. This might also mention the scholarship and fellowship support. Danielle Mazza commented that the argument should be that academic development should be supported to safeguard the future. Debbie Askew commented that the PHCRED stage 3 has yet to be announced. It was suggested that the AAAPC needs to know what is happening with this long term funding. Long term certainty is required to support academic primary care. The window of opportunity is small, once the election date is announced. There was a consensus that the AAAPC needed to move urgently on this issue. Professional lobbying was mentioned again. Dimity expressed the view that this is the big challenge for the AAAPC.

It was also suggested that the AAAPC should:

- pass a condolence motion on the passing of Charles Bridges-Webb and a letter to his wife. Dimity said a letter will be sent.
- write a letter to GPET commending them for linking the research training meeting with this meeting, registrars have been very grateful for the opportunity to see what is going on.

Ellen McIntyre expressed her thanks to the AAAPC for supporting this conference, which next year will be in Brisbane.

Dimity expressed the meetings thanks for Jon for the leadership he has given the AAAPC over the past two years.

5.5. Next meeting; Brisbane in 2011