

# Minutes of AAAPC Executive Committee Held 15 FEBRUARY 2011

1. **Attendance:** Dimity, Marie, Sarah, Ellen, Danielle, Tania, Marjan and Kitty.
2. **Apologies:** Jon, Deb, Richard, and Joachim.
3. **Minutes of last meeting** The minutes of the last AAAPC executive meeting, held 30 November 2010, were agreed.
4. **Business Arising:**

4.1 **Journal Ranking update:** a meeting took place, the idea being to try and improve the ranking of Primary Care Journals. The ARC is reviewing journal rankings this year and it was suggested that the AAAPC put in a submission, not done as yet. An email was sent to the ARC advising it that the AAAPC was the body to consult on the ranking of primary care journals. Dimity will write a draft letter and send it out to the committee for comments before sending it to the ARC. There is a link on the website to journal rankings. The Thompson ISI /Impact Factor is going to create a primary care subheading or sub grouping, which will allow for an easier search facility.

4.2. **The Academic Career Working Group update** – Dimity sent out a summary of the Brisbane meeting. The meeting seemed very sympathetic to the goal of trying to get solutions to the problem with Academic Registrars. The meeting primarily defined the problem rather than putting forward solutions. Some suggestions were made as to:

- how to improve the career structure for young GPs wishing to become academics
- how to improve the academic registrar experience
- supporting indigenous groups, and
- how to GPET could get involved in resourcing these initiatives.

The meeting discussed a certificate in General Practice. Danielle stressed the need for qualifications that would be recognised nationally by the universities, she suggested an Honours program or a Masters degree that could dovetail into a PhD, One barrier is the financial cost of further study.

There will be another meeting of the Academic Career Working Group in April 2011.

4.3 **The PHCRED Funding Model** – there was a meeting with Vicky Murphy in December 2010. They are fixed on the idea of having centres of research excellence (CRE) rather than research networks. There is more money available for the CREs. There is funding for up to ten career development fellowships, funded through the NHMRC, details are available on the PHCRED website; it is important that the AAAPC encourages candidates to apply. The closing date may be 10 March 2011; Sarah agreed to send the link to Dimity. Ellen suggested that the AAAPC should email the membership, stressing the benefits of making an application. Marie and Kitty will liaise to draft the email to the membership. There will be more CREs advertised early in March 2011 and there will be an Information day at Canberra on 21 March 2011 which Dimity and Marjan will be attending. The themes of the CREs have yet to be announced.

**5. The Newsletter** – Sarah has been busy with NHMRC applications and would welcome contributions.

Possible articles:

- Ellen agreed to write a piece about her new position
- Something about by a winner of the first three CREs, David Lyle was awarded the rural CRE
- A report on the Scottish School on Primary Care in April 2011

The current deadline is mid to late March 2011, with publication in the first week in April.

**6. General Business**

**6.1 Membership**

6.1.1 New members: None

6.1.2 Finances: It may be necessary to ask the larger departments to do a \$1,000 donation or to ask departments to sponsor their staff to become members. Kitty and Marie to draft a discussion paper on attracting new members for the next meeting.

**6.2 Communications to President**

6.2.1 Letter from Melbourne East GP Network concerning a funding submission to HWA – This is an alliance of Melbourne, Monash and Deakin Universities to support: practices taking medical student placements within the Melbourne East GP network region. Specifically the idea it to support:

- practices taking medical student placements
- the funding of a co-ordinator to support placements within the region
- the provision of payments to enable GPs to attend relating to DPD relating to medical teaching, and
- the provision of payments to support the administration and co-ordination of time for arranging shared placements, either within practices or with primary care providers.

The HWA wrote advising that the funding had been granted; then there was a second HWA letter reneging on the offer as it now claimed that this type of funding was covered by the PIP payments. Accordingly HWA deemed the application to be ineligible. Danielle suggested there was a clear differentiation between the regional planning co-ordination of medical student placements and the PIP payments which are direct payments to GPs practices for having a medical student at the practice. Given the increasing requirements for medical student placements, without a mechanism to support the practices in a more comprehensive way, then we will encounter problems,

Marjan mentioned an initiative going on at the moment which is looking at the cost of placements in

various divisions of medical schools, not the HWA. Dimity mentioned that a number of universities had encountered a similar response from HWA. Dimity is to set up a meeting with Danielle to speak with Liz Farmer, director of innovation at the HWA. Dimity will circulate those attending the PIP meeting to see if they have any comments on HWA policy on this issue.

**7. Conference Update :** Two key note speakers:

- Kim Bennell, the professor of physiotherapy at Melbourne University will speak at the plenary session, and
- Dame Claire Burtisinger from the UK, who has written a book called 'Moving Mountains.

The final plenary session will be a panel discussion forum, focussing on 'Solutions'.

**8. Next Meeting:** Tuesday 15 March 2011, then 19 April 2011. Kitty to send out a memo to all committee members with meeting dates for the coming months.

## **ASSIGNED ACTIONS ARISING**

**Dimity is to:**

- write a draft letter to the ARC advising it that the AAAPC was the body to consult on the ranking of primary care journals and send it out to the committee for comments before sending it to the ARC
- set up a meeting with Danielle to speak with Liz Farmer, director of innovation at the HWA, and
- circulate those who attended the PIP meeting to see if they have any comments on HWA policy.

**Marie and Kitty are to:**

- draft an email to the membership about the career development fellowships, funded through the NHMRC, to encourage members to apply, and
- draft a discussion paper on attracting new members for the next meeting.

**Kitty is to:**

- send out a memo to all committee members with meeting dates for the coming months.