

Minutes of the Executive Committee of the AAAPC Teleconference on 20 August 2013

1. Attending

Nick Zwar, Dimity Pond, Marie Pirotta, Ellen McIntyre, Christina Hagger, Grant Russell, Kirsty Douglas, Liz Halcomb, Julia Walters, Sarah Larkins, and Kitty Novy.

2. Apologies

Louise Stone, and Danielle Mazza.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held on 18 June 2013 were approved.

4. Business Arising:

1. The National PBRN meeting which took place at the PHC Research Conference. Dimity advised that the meeting was well attended, decisions made: meeting to all HWA funding has gone to practices, via local networks, that have increased the number of clinical placements. There is no financial incentive for just maintaining existing placements. Nick commented that it is hard to get a picture of National funding. There is a progress to email this and survey out to all executive members. The issues are: what happens next and how can the structure be maintained in the longer term when APHCRI funding only goes until July 2014. Marie, as the AAAPC representative on the consultative group, commented that the aim is to get a survey of all existing PBRNs finished.

2. The PHC Research Conference 2013 – There were 480 delegates, the majority of whom were researchers. There was a very positive evaluation of the conference, a strong link with Policy and Research. Particular contributions/sessions were praised. Regina Benjamin, from the USA, was mentioned a really good key note speaker for the future, Kirsty to send the email contact details to Ellen.

5. The Newsletter:

The conference edition is due out in August 2013, Kitty is gathering in the promised contributions.

6. Finances:\$11,616.23

6.1 New Members: A/Prof Sinthia Bosnic-Anticevich (UNSW), Bastian Seidel (UWOL), Gerard Considine (University of Adelaide), Joanne Reeve (University of Liverpool), and Rony Gunarrsson (JCU). It was mentioned that Gerard Considine is a blogger who has promised to write something about the conference. Mention was made again of the need to grow the membership: it was suggested that this should be on the front page of the web site. KN will speak with Vanessa to see if this can be done and whether people can actually apply online to become members. Nick raised whether it is necessary to get another member to sign to endorse the application, this is perhaps a hurdle that could be removed. Marie to check to see in this second signature is required by the AAAPC constitution, if not it is to be removed. It was agreed that at least twice a year an email could go out to all members encouraging them to seek out prospective new members.

6.2 The Balance Sheet: The current balance is \$11,616 – the usual balance for this time of year. There are still unpaid memberships to be collected.

7. Other Business:

7.1 The tribute to Marjan will be organised with reference to Marjan's family, no progress as yet, the delay is out of respect to Marjan's family.

7.2 It appears that **the Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC) in the UK**, is keen to foster links with the AAAPC. It has an annual conference; already someone from the US attends each year and presents a US prize winning paper. The US body gives \$500 towards the airfare. If the AAAPC is to send a representative this would require funding of at least \$500. It was agreed that the person to send would be the winner of the Best Paper at the PHCRIS conference. It was suggested that the Bridges Webb winners, who are generally well established in the profession as the award of the Bridges Webb recognises the recipient as being a leader in the field, be asked to contribute towards the cost of this initiative. This could be seen as a sort of 'handing over of the baton'. Marie is to discuss this idea further with Jane Gunn. Dimity to draft an email to SAPC (and forward the draft to Nick), advising that the AAAPC is interested in the idea, and that the nominee would be the prize winner of the Best Paper at the PHCRIS conference, that the AAAPC would contribute something towards the airfares and hoping that SAPC would waive the conference registration fees. Even if the past Bridges Webb winners are not able to finance this, it was felt that the executive committee should look at finding alternative funding, and that this item, arrangements with the UK conference, should stay on the agenda.

7.3 The Website and Webpage: Liz and Dimity have drafted proposed changes, Kit to send the draft changes for the website to be discussed at the next executive meeting. It was mentioned that the PBRN, which is setting up its website, is interested in being linked to the AAAPC, it may be appropriate for the AAAPC to host the PBRN web presence. Kitty is to discuss this further with Vanessa and Natalie and report back to the next meeting.

ACTION KN to discuss webpage with Vanessa Ho and Natalie Appelby

7.4 Constitution Amendments as passed at the July AGM. KN is to send out proposed amendments, these fall into two groups:

- those voted on and passed at the AGM (these are now part of the Constitution; an up to date version needs to be posted on the Website, the current posting dates back to 2001), and
- those raised for the first time at the AGM which will need to be formally considered at the next AGM.

7.5 Other issues raised at the AGM – the need for lobbying Federal Government. Discussion of this was adjourned until after the Federal Elections. Need to be clear as to what the AAAPC would be lobbying about with a clearly thought out rationale. Past lobbying points: Early career researchers, primary care researchers which could benefit from scholarship funding. APCRI administers the primary care research funding which it has used to fund the CREs, this is APCRI's remit, but the AAAPC could lobby around the 'scope of the remit' to allow funding for research with a clinical focus. Grant mentioned that only the AAAPC can speak with such a primary care research voice, and accordingly it should devote considerable time and energy to further lobbying. Nick will draft a letter to the new Minister asking that a member of the AAAPC be asked onto the Research Advisory Board, and or request a meeting with John Glover, Chair of the Research Advisory Board.

7.6 Clinical Placements for Academic Registrars – GPET is reviewing the rules and guidelines, 6 monthly placements and other worrying models; GPET would welcome contact. Nick to/email Louise to find out what is happening.

7.7 State Representatives on the AAAPC executive committee – still missing WA and the Northern Territory; Natasha Pavlin and Jon Emery have been looking without success but will carry on; Grant suggested that Alistair Vickery might be a good rep for WA, if a teaching rather than research orientation is acceptable – Grant was asked to make an approach to Alistair.

7.8 A working party on New Zealand membership of the AAAPC – Nick, Dimity, Kirsty and Ngaire will form a working group to develop a proposal as to how the AAAPC can best incorporate New Zealand membership. Nick is to convene this group by email.

7.9 Access to Medicare data for research studies – The Dept of Human Services and Department of Health and Ageing have proposed changes to the access to Medicare data when a GP is recruited into participating in a research study program. The Sydney Beach survey drew a sample from the Medicare billing data of GPs. The DOHA now proposes researchers be to make all such approaches to GPs through a commercial mailing house. Graeme Miller was going to write to the AAAPC to summarise the problem, but no letter has been received. Nick is to follow up with Graham to find out what has developed. This item is to remain on the agenda.

7.10 Amended guidelines for the Travelling Fellowship – Liz Halcomb was to report on the amended guidelines but she had already left the meeting (it was running overtime).

ACTION Kit to email Liz, get the amended guidelines and mail them out before the next meeting.

Next Meeting: September 17 2013

ACTIONS ARISING

Nick is to:

- follow up with Graeme Miller to find out what has developed around research access to Medicare data
- 'create' the working group of Ngaire, Dimity, Kirsty and himself which needs to develop proposals as to how the AAAPC can best incorporate New Zealand membership
- email Louise to find out what GPET is planning regarding Clinical Placements for Academic Registrars, and
- draft a letter to the new Minister asking that a member of the AAAPC be asked onto the the Research Advisory Board, and or request a meeting with John Glover, Chair of the Research Advisory Board.

Dimity is to:

- draft an email to SAPC (and forward the draft to Nick), expressing the AAAPC's wish to forge a conference link with its sister UK body.

Grant is to:

- approach Alistair Vickery to see if he would be willing to represent WA on this executive committee.

Marie is to:

- discuss with Jane Gunn the idea that past winners of the Bridges Webb Medal be asked to contribute towards the cost of part funding the Best Paper award winner to travel to the UK and give a paper at the Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC), and
- check to see if this second signature is required, on an application for membership, if not this current requirement is to be removed.

Kitty is to:

- contact Liz, obtain the amended guidelines to the Travelling Fellowship and mail them to all executive members in advance of the next meeting
- send out proposed amendments to the Constitution, in two groups:
 - those voted on and passed at the AGM (these are now part of the Constitution; an up to date version needs to be posted on the Website, the current posting dates back to 2001), and
 - those raised for the first time at the AGM which will need to be formally considered at the next AGM.
- discuss with Vanessa and Natalie the PBRN's possible use of the AAAPC website for its own web presence and report back to the next meeting.
- speak with Vanessa to see if a hyper link to the membership form can be on the front page of the AAAPC website and whether people can actually apply online to become members, and
- send out the minutes of the National PBRN and a progress report on the survey to all executive members.