

Minutes of the Executive Committee of the AAAPC

Held on Tuesday October 15th 2013

1. Attending *Nick Zwar, Dimity Pond, Ellen McIntyre, Kitty Novy, Liz Halcomb, Grant Russell, Louise Stone Kirsty Douglas*
2. Apologies: *Marie Pirotta, Sarah Larkins, Danielle Mazza, Julia Walters, Michelle Guppy Christina Hagger,*
3. Minutes of the last meeting 17 September 2013
4. Correspondence to the AAAPC, received since the last meeting – copied in on a letter written by Leon Piterman to the RACGP, requesting that the latter publish annually the CPD approvals data; this would make the process more transparent. Nick to email Leon to see if he has had a reply from the College and if he wants the AAAPC to support this request.
5. Business Arising:
 - 5.1. Lobbying of Federal Government– Nick has put in a request for a meeting with the new Federal Minister for Health, the letter raised the idea of discussing the strengthening support for teaching and research in primary health care. It went on to congratulate the Government on its policy ‘decision’ to increase the double the PIP payment and on further support for teaching infrastructure in General Practices. These are the two promises in the Coalition’s policy statement.

The meeting then discussed the specifics of a lobbying agenda:

The consensus seemed to be that the funds are not likely to be increased, but it would be possible to suggest it needs to increase the share of the cake given to practice/clinically relevant primary health care research. The AHPCRI funded CREs provide support to policy relevant research which is welcome but is the Minister sure that practice relevant research is being given adequate support. This would include promoting PBRNs and the centrality of primary health care in delivery of effective health care to meet the needs of the Australian population. The Minister’s attention could be drawn to the NMHRC data showing the level of support it provides to practice relevant research and hence how little funding this area actually receives. It was noted that in its policy statements the Coalition seems to equate primary health care with general practice.

One idea would be to draw the Minister’s attention to the different aspects of primary health care - it is more than just a focus on general practice, it encompasses much more.

Dimity raised the use and developing scope of screening tests conducted at ante natal clinics as an example of where clinically relevant primary care research might be a helpful and important managing the changing demands on primary care. In some instances women are asking for blood samples to be sent to the USA for detection of fetal abnormalities; yet the figures used to support this procedure result in very low false/positive rate and paradoxically an extremely low positive predictive value. This would be just an example of the developing scope of primary care, one which shows how important such change is managed through clinical/practice based research.

The PHCRED strategy is being reviewed, in terms of “where to next?” It is important that the Minister has a good grasp of current PHCRED strategy and that clinical research is perhaps not getting its fair share of funding. At the moment PHCRED gives funding to policy relevant research rather than clinical/practice relevant research. So the AAAPC could argue that continued PHCRED funding is essential and that more funds should be directed to practice relevant research, here the PBRNs are fundamental.

Russell suggests that comparative studies of primary health care funding in other countries USA, Canada and the UK for example.

NHMRC accepts that very little of its funding goes to primary health care research; the AAAPC would argue less than it warrants. It could seek to persuade the Minister to increase the size of funding NMHRC allocates to primary health care research.

Nick to create a dot point agenda with specific ideas

The APHCRI Research Advisory Board – Nick has sent an email to John Marley, who is seemingly very happy to have a discussion, no meeting set as John has been away.

The PHCRED strategy review – Nick has contacted Robyn Consadine who is quite open to having a discussion with AAAPC and will meet with her at the end of October, and will organise a more formal meeting early next year with the Executive group of the AAAPC involved.

5.2. The missing Rep for the Northern Territory – Natasha has been trying to recruit new members in the Northern Territory

- 5.3. The working party on New Zealand membership of the AAAPC – is away but other New Zealanders have expressed an interest in being involved. Next step, to try and find a time – using Doodle – for an initial meeting before the end of the year. It would be good to include a representative from the nursing field in New Zealand
 - 5.4. Responses to the Travelling Fellowship - 1 response *Dr Irene Blackberry University of Melbourne*. A team of three executive members are needed to assess the application: Ellen, Grant and Louise offered to do this, Kit to send the criteria out to the assessors with the application
 - 5.5. Outcome of the Doodle on the time and day of future AAAPC teleconferences- *Dates to be confirmed* . There have been technical problems with the Doodle, now resolved and so the results will be available for the next meeting
 - 5.6. Minimum standards for undergraduate general practice placements – It would seem that there are no set minimum standards, certainly GPET has none, and that currently there is considerable diversity in approach to general practice placements; maybe the standards could be defined quite broadly, in terms of graduate competencies desired, which would then guide what exposure and teaching experiences go into a primary care ‘curriculum’. Is this core business for the AAAPC, clearly it would be for the old AAAGP. If the AAAPC were to deem it core business it might also need to look at primary care nursing placements, physiotherapy placements. Ways of moving this forward were discussed: an email to the HoDs or a discussion at a HoDs meeting. Dimity to discuss this issue informally with HoDs or related people at the GP ‘13 meeting next week and bring ideas garnered to the next AAAPC executive meeting.
6. The Newsletter – The December 2013 edition. Meredith is putting something together about guidance for practice nurses and research involvement. A separate nursing article has been offered for publication by Melinda. Kit to re-email the original article to Liz. Liz will look at this and provide editing feedback to Melinda. Joanne Reeves and Michael Wright are both willing to write a short piece about their work as new members from Overseas for the Newsletter.

7. Finance

7.1 New Members: Michael Wright, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. A further new member – Peggy who is at Melbourne Uni, working as a research fellow with John Emery. Could do a promotional email to heads of the CREs with a view to recruiting research fellows. PHCRD who could promote it on its e-bulletin. Kitty to send the recruitment email to

- Nick for circulation to the heads of CREs,
- Ellen for the PHCRD e-bulletin, and
- Louise who will ensure it is sent out to the new (20 November 2013) intake of academic registrars.

7.2 The Balance Sheet: \$12.087.28

8. Other Business:

8.1 Publication of Triennial CPD Activity - see above

9. Next Meeting: 19th November 2013 – 12 noon EST

ACTIONS ARISING

Nick is to:

- convene, before the year is out, a first meeting of the working party on incorporating New Zealand membership of the AAAPC
- email Leon Piterman to see if he has had a reply from the College on his request that it publishes annually the CPD approvals data and if he wants the AAAPC to support this request.
- create a dot point agenda with specific ideas on which to lobby the new Federal Minister for Health
- report back on his discussions with John Marley re AAAPC representation on the APHCRI Research Advisory Board
- report back on discussions with Robyn Consadine regarding the The PHCRD strategy review
- raise with John Marley the problem of access to Medicare data for research studies
- circulate the AAAPC new members recruitment document, by email, to the heads of CREs, with a view to recruiting research fellows

Ellen is to:

- post the AAAPC new members recruitment document on the PHCRD e-bulletin, and

Louise is to:

- ensure the AAAPC new members recruitment document is sent out to the new intake of academic registrars

Dimity is to:

- report back on her informal discussions, with HoDs or related people at the GP '13 meeting, regarding standards for undergraduate general practice/primary care placements

Liz is to:

- look at Melinda's article and provide editing feedback to

Kitty is to:

- send out, as soon as the technical glitches have been resolved, a Doodle to see if the exec members can come up with a more convenient day and time for future executive meetings
- send out the judging criteria for the Travelling Fellowship Ellen, Grant and Louise together with all applications received.
- re-email the original article, submitted by Melinda, to Liz for editing feedback.
- send the AAAPC new members recruitment email to
 - Nick for circulation to the heads of CREs,
 - Ellen for the PHCRD e-bulletin, and
 - Louise for the new (20 November 2013) intake of academic registrars.