

DRAFT Minutes of the Executive Committee of the AAAPC

Held: 21 August 2014

1. **Attending:** Nick Zwar, Dimity Pond, Phyllis Lau, Sarah Larkins, Emma Warnecke, Michelle Guppy, Kirsty Douglas, Liz Halcomb, Alistair Vickery, Christina Hagger, Felicity Goodyear Smith, Jodie Oliver Baxter
2. **Special Guests:** Natalie Appelby, Tim Dyke
3. **Apologies:** Ellen McIntyre, Danielle Mazza, Sue Pollen, Suzanne McKenzie, Grant Russell
4. **Minutes** of the last meeting held 24 June 2014 were agreed.
5. **Correspondence to the AAAPC,** None
6. **Business Arising:**
 - i. Update on lobbying efforts – future lobbying might be more productive if directed towards senior public servants rather than to Ministers or their staff. On this point, there have been changes at the Department of Health, with Penny Shakespeare returning to replace Ian Crittendon as head of the Workforce Branch. It was agreed to focus on GP vocational training; the issue of Academic GP Registrars becomes more perilous when GPET ceases to exist. Nick is to write to Penny expressing particular interest in this and flag the co-ordination of Academic GP Registrars as something that the AAAPC could take on, assuming the role was funded. Prior to sending this email, Nick is to discuss the issue with Louise Stone who may be able to give good advice on how to pitch the proposal. Sarah mentioned that the Senate Select Committee on Health is touring the country, and that she had attended one session; it has very broad terms of reference and this might be a further avenue for AAAPC lobbying.
 - ii. Changes to the Constitution- all proposed changes were accepted at the AGM. The website is about to be updated to include changes and new logo.
 - iii. AAAPC press release on 'Co-payments' did not attract any press feedback. It remains relevant and will be sent out to the National and State offices of the AMA. There was a discussion about whether the AAAPC should re-apply to be included in the United General Practice body. Given that it now has a broader membership, it was mooted whether it would be worthwhile to write and ask again if the AAAPC could be included. On the issue of press releases, Christina mentioned that Kate, who runs the Communications and Media department at PCHRIS, would be willing to assist the AAAPC with final editing suggestions and with distribution of future AAAPC press releases.
 - iv. Implications of budget for academic primary care teaching and research – There is to be a special forum at the GPET conference on the future of vocational training. Meanwhile, the new vocational training organisation is supposed to be set up by September 2015 and operating training in 2016. Phyllis mentioned that there is a proposal to start charging fees for students undertaking a PhD.
 - v. Discussion of review of Medicare Locals outcome- the boundaries of the new Primary Health Networks are still to be released. Private Health care insurers and the National Prescribing Service have both expressed and interest in being involved in the provision of primary care.
7. **The Newsletter** The August 'Conference' edition of the Newsletter is now being finalised and will be out once the last articles have been edited
8. **PHC Research Conference** Christina Hagger advised that this year's conference was attended by 450 delegates and saw 50 policy makers engaged at one forum or another. The evaluations are in and they are overwhelmingly positive; some key addresses were given in overflowing rooms. The collaboration with the AAAPC was once again, very successful and much appreciated. The 2015 conference is already in planning

but there will be no announcements until funding is confirmed.

9. Other Business

9.1. Timothy Dyke and Rob Rigby attended the meeting to talk about the work of NHMRC in supporting the conduct of clinical trials; he explained that its ambit extended beyond pharmaceutical sponsored trials and hospital trials. He was keen to start an ongoing conversation with the AAAPC as the work of NHMRC does touch upon primary health care clinical trials and he sees that AAAPC as key player/contact organisation on issues concerning academic primary health care research. The focus of the NHMRC has been on streamlining of the ethical review process, research governance processes and how to support patient recruitment. The NHMRC website carries a monthly update on activities. Its aim is to identify significant efficiencies whilst maintaining the quality of clinical trials. On behalf of the AAAPC, Nick expressed the wish to be part of a dialogue with NHMRC; primary health care clinical trials are hampered by the absence of a supporting structure for the engagement of GP practices. Structures tend to be created for each community study (eg Mark Nelson's National Blood Pressure Study) but when the study is concluded the structure disbands. There is no ongoing structure as exists abroad (eg the Medical Research Council General Practice Research Network in the UK), and thus the recruitment of primary care practices is the most time consuming and expensive aspect of running a clinical trial. APCReN was funded to explore the lay of the land for practice based research networks (PBRNs) and is in effect an umbrella organisation, there to support existing networks and to survey the work carried out by such networks and to advise whether collaboration between primary care research networks would be beneficial. APCReN has its own website and it has just submitted an interim report to its funding body, APHRCI. It gave a presentation of its work to the PCHRIS conference, available from the PCHRIS website. The NHMRC asked if it could see the report; Nick/Dimitry to ask APHRCI if this is permitted. Whilst the AAAPC is not a member of the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA), APCReN is. ACTA is currently doing a survey of clinical trial networks and is in regular contact with the NHMRC. Sarah Larkins made the point that there are particular issues that need to be considered for the support and conduct in rural areas such as northern Australia. Tim ended the discussion by inviting further contact with the AAAPC, which he will put on lists of important stakeholders, his email address is: timothy.dyke@NHMRC.gov.au

9.2. APCReN update: Natalie Appelby reported that there is now funding until the end of this year, and the interim report is now with APHRCI. The interest of NHMRC in the work of APCReN might improve the possibility of it getting a CRE. The next meeting of APCReN is on 9 September 2014. In Melbourne

9.3. Social Media Strategy for the AAAPC. Discussion led by Jodie Oliver Baxter. Jodie suggested that the AAAPC would benefit from a presence in the social media; with a hash tag for Twitter a minimum of two posts per week. All agreed that this would be a positive move, and would increase the profile of the AAAPC.

9.4. New Committee Members: Felicity Goodyear-Smith, Sue Pullon- New Zealand Reps, Suzanne McKenzie- Treasurer, Phyllis Lau-Vic Rep Jodie Oliver Baxter-Early Career and Student Rep, Emma Warnecke-Tas Rep

Nick welcomed all the new committee members and asked Felicity how she would like the committee agenda structured so that New Zealand issues get sufficient 'air time'. Felicity advised that next month there is the annual "Research Retreat" in the near future in New Zealand and that she plans to discuss the AAAPC during the retreat and will come back to the Executive Committee after these discussions.

10. Finance \$7,524.01

11. New Members Nine new members: Ruby Biezen Monash, Andrew Kirke UoWA, Linda Slack Smith UoWA, Diana O'Halloran UWS, Anthony Stanley GP, Anne Todd UTAS, Anna Wood UoM, Nalayini Sugirthan NSW, Rita Barbour UoWA

Next Meeting. Thursday 18th September 1.30pm -2.30pm

ASSIGNED ACTIONS

Nick is to

- write to Penny expressing interest in the co-ordination of Academic GP Registrars, suggesting that it is a role that the AAAPC could take on

Sarah is to

- forward to K.N a link page to the Senate Select Committee on Health to send to committee

Christina is to

- forward to Kitty the contact details of Kate, who runs the Communications and Media department
- forward the AAAPC press release on 'Co-payments' the National and State offices of the AMA

UNASSIGNED ACTIONS

- write to ask APHRCI to ask if it could share the interim if this is permitted APCReN with the NHMRC
- write to United General Practice to seek AAAPC membership of this group of organisations