

## Minutes of the Executive Committee of the AAAPC

Held: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014

1. **Attending:** Nick Zwar, Dimity Pond, Sarah Larkins, Emma Warnecke, Kirsty Douglas, Liz Halcomb, Alistair Vickery, Felicity Goodyear Smith, Sue Pollen, Ellen McIntyre, Grant Russell, and Kitty Novy
2. **Apologies:**, Suzanne McKenzie, Phyllis Lau, Christina Hagger, Danielle Mazza, Jodie Oliver Baxter, and Michelle Guppy
3. **Minutes** of the last meeting, held 21 August 2014, were approved
4. **Correspondence to the AAAPC:** Correspondence with The Australian Association for Medical Research about the proposed Medical Research Fund which resulted in the former modifying its web statement to include research outside of the Hospital system/primary care research.
5. **Business Arising:**
  - i. *Lobbying Update – GP academic registrar positions and support.* Kirsty and Nick went to the Department of Health, Canberra and met up with Penny Shakespeare who is the First Assistant Secretary managing the changes to GP vocational training. They focussed on the position of academic registrars, emphasising their importance to the future of academic primary care in Australia and likening them to essential building blocks of the future primary care workforce. GPET is funded until the end of 2014 but it will then cease to exist; it has run a successful program for academic registrars filling 26 positions in the past year with 21 applications pending for 2015. This places at great risk the central co-ordination and promotion of academic GP registrar positions including Research Week. The existing Regional Training Providers will continue to provide GP academic registrar positions in 2015 but will be in a transition phase with a tendering process in 2015 for which organisations will provide GP vocational training in the longer term. The outlook after the end of 2015 is very uncertain. One possible way forward, to which Penny Shakespeare seemed sympathetic, was for RACGP and ACRRM to play a co-ordinating role to support academic GP registrar positions, possibly with assistance from the AAAPC. Nick is to liaise with Louise Stone and then send an email to Penny Shakespeare focussing on ways forward, after GPET.
  - ii. *Request to join United General Practice.* The next meeting of the United General Practice is in October 2015. The meeting discussed a letter that Nick has drafted to it, advancing reasons why it would be sensible for the AAAPC to become a member of this organisation. Nick to send this letter by email, in advance of the October meeting.
  - iii. *Senate Select Committee on Health.* The College is making a submission to the Select Committee. It was agreed that the AAAPC would forward its press release on proposed budget changes and add a paragraph on changes to vocational training and the position of academic registrars. Nick to do this.
  - iv. *New Zealand Matters-update Felicity and Sue.* There is a research conference in New Zealand, starting 19 September 2014, at which they will be encouraging people to join up. There was discussion about an introductory discount for new New Zealand members and it was agreed, subject to approval by the AAAPC treasurer, to offer a one off for this year only, of 50% of the usual membership.
  - v. *Social Media Strategy for the AAAPC –Update Jodie.* A Twitter handle was created on 5 September 2014, and already it has 19 followers. The aim is to have 2 AAAPC tweets per week, and so far 6 tweets have been posted on diverse subjects, including: ‘Peter Dutton and co-payments’, ‘r u ok day’, and ‘the UAW

recruiting of practice nurses'. It was suggested that some monitoring of the Twitter account was necessary to ensure that there were no inappropriate tweets posted.

6. **The Newsletter** Tim Dykes article received after the cut off will be in December issue
7. **PHC Research Conference** *Any updates on funding for 2015.* Negotiations for funding continue on a number of fronts but there is no official position at this stage.

#### 8. **Other Business**

8.1. *Medical Research Future Fund.* See paragraph 4 above.

8.2. *APCRen Latest updates.* There was a productive meeting last week; it is working on a proposal to APCRI for future funding.

#### 9. **Finance** \$8284.12

10. **New Members** *Kyle Eggerton, University Auckland, Ru Kwedza, UNSW, John Riley*

**Next Meeting. Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 1.30pm -2.30pm**

### **ASSIGNED ACTIONS**

Nick is to:

- send an email to United General Practice, advancing reasons why it would be sensible for the AAAPC to become a member of this organisation
- send an email to Penny Shakespeare following up on the Canberra meeting, focussing on ways forward, after GPET, for the position of academic registrars.
- forward to the Senate Select Committee on Health, the AAAPC press release on proposed budget changes and add a paragraph on changes to vocational training and the position of academic registrars