

Minutes for the Executive Committee of the AAAPC

19 March 2015

1. **Attending:** Nick Zwar, Dimity Pond, Ellen McIntyre, Phyllis Lau, Michelle Guppy, Christina Hagger, Sue Pullon, Kirsty Douglas, Emma Warnecke, Sarah Larkins, Kitty Novy.
2. **Apologies:** Louise Stone, Suzanne McKenzie, Felicity Goodyear-Smith, Jodie Oliver-Baxter, Danielle Mazza, Grant Russell, Liz Halcomb,
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the last meeting held February 19 2015 were accepted and action items from last meeting were reviewed :Nick to follow up with Meredith on the APCReN report, Felicity has agreed to allow the AAAPC to upload the revised history of AAAPC written for the book International Perspective in Primary Health Care Research onto the AAAPC website and Nick emailed the membership for more feedback on APHCRI future discussion paper before submitting and got a little more input and has been submitted
4. **Correspondence to and from the AAAPC:** None
5. **Business Arising:**
 - i. *APCReN-Centre of Research Excellence* .Nick led the discussion on what would be the best strategic approach after last month's meeting. Ellen reported back from *APHCRI* Research Advisory board meeting that future funding after 2015 was unknown but the *APCReN* model was seen as a good model for implementation. Nick has contacted Meredith to ask if she could put together a summary of what *APCReN* has been doing so the membership is aware of the enormous amount of work that has been done. Natalie to organise meeting with steering group as soon as possible now that the final report submitted as Nick felt that it was vital that the group think of the best way forward and what they need to do next. He noted that they were still waiting on the outcomes for a number of applications for funding including Dimity's grant and NHMRC grants. Ellen suggested that this would be an excellent lead article in the next newsletter and all agreed. There is small amount of money still left which will be used to help with administration.
 - ii. *GP academic registrar update:* Nick led discussion with his concern about this that the regional provider he was involved in and there was a sense that people had given up on them as they are unlikely to be around after 2016. Sarah Larkins was concerned that Academic positions in her area seemed to be veering more towards Medical Education Registrar positions based at the RTP, with minimal research component this is a very different academic environment to a uni Dept of GP. Emma noted that UTAS have focused on quality over quantity ,they have 2 part medical educational GP registrars this year doing teaching and medical educational work and not so much research and this seems very popular. Nick has none in Sydney, Melbourne has 1University of New England 2 doing a mixture of research and teaching .Sue Pullon discussed the New Zealand joint academic - vocational Pathway model that has been problematic because of funding issues. In the past 3 years University of Otago after much persuasion to sponsor a scholarship for one person for a conjoint PHD/ vocational GP pathway taking 4-5 years. The New Zealand College of GPs are now discussing providing a second pathway to match. Sue felt that the key to the uptake of the scholarship was a more attractive stipend,(\$NZ 25,000.) as well as the University covering the fees for every year the person takes to complete. She was interested to know if in Australia it was a funding issue or just a lack of interest in research that determined the uptake of general (not necessarily PhD) academic options. Nick thought neither of these were the issues because in the past there has been a healthy and consistent uptake of academic registrars positions throughout Australia 24 part time positions a year are offered and most taken The focus was a mixture of research and teaching. There has been a robust system set up here with a lot of support from Louise Stone and the GPET mentoring program. Nick felt that with the disappearing of GPET into the Department and the uncertainty the regional providers have on

future funding promoting it is not important and we are in danger of losing something that has been a very important part of academic GP training in this country. Nick asked that the email sent from Gerard Gill on the data he has been collecting on the number of GPs who attained a doctoral qualification be forwarded to the committee and it needs to be added on the agenda at HODS and AGM meetings in July. Sarah Larkins noted that when collecting figures about numbers of GPs emerging with PhDs we also need to consider other PhDs (not necessarily GPs) in Primary Health Care that emerge from Departments of General Practice.

Nick felt it was important to get direction on what would be the best step and will contact Louise Stone and also ask if we should continue to lobby. Also if she could write something for the newsletter. Christina Hagger felt we should not assume everyone knows the value of the Academic Registrar and although she has written in the past it would be timely to do again. Kirsty thought that the GPET review should be completed by the end of the year tenders would be announced and have a successful handover by end of the year. The committee felt that continuing to lobby was a very important

The letter sent on behalf of the AAAPC to Lucy Walter and Frank Jones did not get a response so not sure if they noted our concerns. Ellen thought that it might be wise to contact them again and Nick will do that

iii. *New Zealand Matters*: Sue noted that the Journal of Primary Health care is undergoing some change which is of concern. The College of GPs has taken a lead on this and is hoping to report back at the next meeting. Sue to forward the flyer and details of Annual Research Weekend in Otago in September in case anyone on the committee is thinking of coming across

iv. *Social Media Strategy for the AAAPC*. It is going along well 72 followers

6. **The Newsletter**: The next edition out in March-April; Kitty is collecting articles and will ask Natalie to write the main piece for newsletter on *APCReN* Christina would like the AAAPC members who volunteered to review abstracts to be acknowledged in the newsletter and she is happy to do a small piece

7. **PHC Research Conference**: Christina Hagger said the conference was coming together. She had received 321 abstracts with over 62 reviewers many from AAAPC membership she was very pleased with this. The process of allocating reviewers is happening now. The last teleconference with Ngaire Nick and Carol Davies clarified the sessions that AAAPC will conduct. Ngaire will be the AAAPC keynote speaker and will present her work with older Maori women and the interaction she has had with the community group. She is hoping to bring at least 2 from the group to Adelaide and they would contribute to a panel discussion. There would also be an Australian indigenous representation and the discussion would therefore have an indigenous focus. The discussion would look at how to work with communities and consumers and research, looking at the experience from both sides of the Tasman. The idea would be to have a very active session with a lot of audience participation to keep them engaged. There was confirmation Bev Wilson, will be the The APHCR keynote speaker, she has been the recent health commissioner in Victoria. Nick is hoping to incorporate Louise Stone's and the Higher Degree workshop into the program.

Kirsty mentioned that she had recently hosted Professor Chris Van Weel and he had indicated that he would very interested in being part of the conference next year. There will be a number of AAAPC events The AAAPC dinner will be held at the Australian Wine Centre Mark Booth is happy to be involved in a lunchtime session and Nick will contact Mark Booth to clarify the theme. Ellen had spoken to Mark recently and had touched on the how primary health care could be best be supported so the right research is being done

8. Other Business

- i. *APHCRI Supporting Primary Health Care Research – future directions discussion paper* Nick was happy circulate the paper to the Department when asked by Emma Whitehead. Ellen noted APHCRI has put together a statement that they had 25 responses and highlighted the key things that had come out Ellen will circulate the link to committee. The committee can also read the article in the Primary Health care newsletter
- ii. *Research Workforce Study*. It was tabled for the RAB on the 6th March Ellen will send the link to the committee but is available to the public on the APHCRI website. Jodie has submitted a symposium abstract for the conference in collaboration with Lynsey Brown, Ellen McIntyre & Chris Barton Also Lesley Russell who works for APHCRI has written an article which can be read in PHCRIS next newsletter
- iii. *Collaboration with NAPCRG*. The NAPCRAG executive committee has approved reciprocal prizes for presentations between NAPCRAG and the international primary health care organisations, one being AAAPC and the other being the Dutch College (European Forum). The person selected would be offered support to come to the PHCRIS conference in Australia. The issue for us is how we would fund the registration of the person coming. Christina felt that this was an exciting opportunity building on the international collaboration cross-promotion between SAPCS PHCRIS and NAPCRAG and felt it would be very possible. She would discuss with Fiona Hawkins and get back to the committee on their ability to incorporate a complementary registration for the winner of the NAPCRG prize session into the 2016 budget and in future years. If it is agreed upon it can be promoted at NAPCRAG in October.
- iv. *GP Supervision under PIP*. Dimity lead the discussion seeking clarification from the committee on the interpretation of PIP payment and the responsibility of the Universities. She was informed that there should be no PIP payment for students spending time with nurses or allied health professionals without a GP present, payment is only for time lost by the GP. She felt that this will have serious implications for the teaching model that they use at Newcastle . After talking to David Merrin from Department he felt that this was a bureaucratic interpretation rather than someone who understood the way teaching in general practice was provided Under the present guidelines Dimity was concerned GP's could not be paid if the student has spent time with the nurse only and was wondering if we should seek advice on the, "under the supervision of the GP at all times" guideline Kirsty feels we could generously interpret this aspect and Nick felt we should perhaps leave alone He felt the responsibility of the Universities was to ensure guidelines were being conformed to, supervisors were up to date with the guidelines and the Practice was able to substantiate claims of payment with documentary evidence
Sue noted that in New Zealand with regard to clinical placement learning they work from the principal that the General Practice is a learning environment and the student no matter what level would learn from all the members of the health team in that environment. The payment to the Practice was payment for clinical aspects of the Practice not individual GP involvement.
Dimity felt that lobbying for changes in the PIP guidelines might be a good way forward and Nick agreed. Dimity was happy to write a letter but Nick felt it would be better to put on the HODs agenda to discuss The point to discuss would be is there a better way of phrasing the guidelines around teaching payment, acknowledging the General Practice is a learning environment with many different members

10. **Financial** The membership subscriptions are coming through \$16,766.69

11. **New Members:** AAAPC has received a number of new applications: Dr Alan Huynh GP NSW, Dr Andrew Davey University of Newcastle, Prof Lyndal Trevena University of Sydney, Prof Robyn Lucas ANU

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION: Kitty to speak to Meredith/Natalie organise a meeting of the APCReN committee

ACTION: Kitty to ask Natalie and Meredith to write a lead article for the March- April newsletter discuss with subcommittee about sending a short summary of the APCReN report to all members.

ACTION: Michelle to send out email on Doctors in Training Research Scholarship Opportunities

being offered by Avant

ACTION: Nick to contact Lucy Walter and Frank

ACTION: Nick to contact Mark Booth to clarify the theme

ACTION: Ellen to circulate the links to committee.

ACTION: PIP payment to be put on the HODS /AGM agenda

Next Meeting April 16th 2015- GOTO Meeting details to follow

1.30pm EST: VIC, NSW, TAS, QLD

1.00pm: SA

3.30pm: New Zealand

11.30am: WA