

AAAPC AGM 2016

PHC Research Conference Canberra

Thursday 9th June 2016.

1. **Attendance:** *Grant Russell, Jennifer Walker, Dimity Pond, Nick Zwar, Sarah Larkins Phyllis Lau, Lynsey Brown, Richard Reed Oliver Frank, Christina Hagger, Lauralie Richard, Jo-Anne Manski Nankervis, Sarah Dennis, Mark Harris Sue Pullon Tim Stokes, Elizabeth Comino, Meredith Temple Smith, Claire Jackson, Ellen McIntyre, Susan Wearne, Felicity Goodyear Smith, Gerard Gill, Louise Stone, Sarah Larkins Charlotte Hespe, Kirsty Douglas, Liz Sturgiss, Samantha Chakrobarty, Jennifer Reath, Claire Heal*
2. **Apologies:** *Geoff Mitchell, Jon Emery, Michelle Guppy, Kelsey Hegarty, Aves Middleton, Jane Smith, Suzanne McKenzie, Sanjot Vagholkar, Jane Gunn, Lena Sanci, Margaret Kay, Emma Warnecke, Irene Blackberry, Amanda McBride Ngaire Kerse, Caroline Johnson, Joan Henderson, Nigel Stocks, Chris Del Mar, Doris Young, Liz Halcomb, Mieke Van Driel, Joan Henderson, John Furler Kyle Eggelton, Marie Pirota, Anna Wood, Susan Webster,*

3. Minutes of 2015 Annual General Meeting:

- The minutes of the AGM 2015 were accepted by Dimity Pond seconded by Nick Zwar

3.1. Business arising from the minutes.

- *Academic Registrar Program:* Nick Zwar led the discussion and noted that Australia has still been unsuccessful in solving the problems of an academic registrar program articulating into a higher degree. It is still unclear as to whether the program should stay within the Department of Health or be reassigned into an academic institution
- Dimity Pond noted there had been negotiations to ensure flexibility in the pathway of registrars
- *Constitutional Change:* To be discussed later

4. Reports

4.1. Presidents report - Grant Russell (GR) reported on the major activities and issues of the year:

- He noted the continuing focus on primary care and the incorporation of New Zealand members was rewarding positive and encouraging. To ensure membership grows we need to make ourselves more relevant to our New Zealand members
- We need to make ourselves more relevant to non-clinician researchers and non GP primary care professionals
- He noted with regret the dismantling of the PHCRED strategy and the defunding of APHCRI at the end of 2015 with only one of the APHCRI's Centre of Excellence to be functioning by mid-2017. He reported that PCRHS funding will stop in December 2016 after a 6 month reprieve. The closure of BEACH due to lack of Federal funding and the suspension of APCReN due to funding issues is deeply concerning to all working in primary care.
- He noted the considerable support from the primary care professional colleges and from SAPC and NAPCRG who all made representations of concern about the funding insecurity
- He noted that briefing material was made available to members to lobby and advocate on behalf of AAAPC and thanked those who contacted media outlets and members of Parliament.
- He reported on the written submissions the AAAPC presented to the Senate on the Standing Committee on Chronic Disease Management and the Medical Research Future Fund. It is likely that the MRFF will become a substantial source of future Australian research funding support so our proposal advocated the need to rebuild the capacity of Australia's PHC research sector to help foster an evidence base for the delivery of high quality, equitable and accessible primary care
- GR noted the reciprocal conference awards with SAPC and NAPCRG continued to be a success, assisting the winners being able to present papers at the Annual Research Meeting. Jennifer Walker will be attending the SAPC conference in Dublin Ireland and Ronny Gunnarsson will be attending NAPCRG in Colorado USA.
- GR noted that one of the main issues going forward was the need to continue to increase the membership because our resources remain limited. A concerted effort is

required in order to expand the AAAPC profile and its capacity as an organisation depends on how we develop it in the future.

- The meeting agreed that communication with other organisations needs to be strengthened in the future
- The development of a Strategic Plan was seen as essential for our future and the priority going forward was to have something in concrete for the next AGM.
- Nick Zwar suggested that to canvas members directly via a survey monkey and get direct input and to follow up with a Strategic Planning day early 2017. This was seen as important by members.
- A general discussion on who we should approach to inform the day. Input from Michael Kidd might be beneficial. Louise Stone felt that it might be strategic to invite Anne Kelso.
- GR proposed that the Executive will organise subcommittee to develop survey and strategic plan and organise a strategic planning day.
- *ACTION: Develop and conduct a survey monkey to canvas the members*
- *ACTION: Prioritise a subcommittee from executive to develop Strategic Plan*
- *ACTION: Organise strategic planning day 2017.*

4.2. **New Zealand Report** – Sue Pullon (SP) reported on behalf of the New Zealand members

- The proposal to increase the New Zealand executive representation to 4 was seen as positive. The possibility of organising a subcommittee in New Zealand which meet up to discuss issues and concerns was seen as broadening the New Zealand input and developing a more coherent approach
- SP believed that a 5 year plan was needed to consolidate and ensure more New Zealand members stayed once the subsidised membership stopped
- Encouraging more Australians to attend the Annual Research weekend which will be held in September 2017 and other research conferences in New Zealand was important to foster relevance. A general discussion on how to get more Australians to this conference which is aimed at early career researchers
- A discussion on a name for the weekend and it was thought that New Zealand Primary Care Research Colloquium was suitable
- It was felt that collaborative research and funding between Australia and New Zealand needs to be explored
- SP noted two particular issues concerning New Zealand had been the Clinical placement project and the consultation document on New Zealand Health strategy
- SP updated the meeting on the work she and Felicity Goodyear-Smith had been undertaking that considered the capacity to train junior doctors, medical students and registrars. The two difficulties encountered were the increasing number of students and registrars requiring practice placements and the difficulties encountered in convincing practices to take students because of the cost
- SP reported on the first ever consultation document highlighting the strategic priorities for health research in New Zealand and she noted there was little mention of primary care or the workforce which was disappointing
- A discussion on the lack of research strategy documents both in New Zealand and Australia although it was noted that PHCRIS has a document on their website although dated was still relevant and could be considered

4.3. **Treasurers Report** – Sarah Larkin reported on behalf of Suzanne McKenzie

- The Organisation depends entirely on membership subscriptions to function. and unless membership increased we would have to review or activities
- The major outgoings is on salary of the Secretariat and the costs associated with the maintaining the website, membership list upkeep and the running of MYOB, Lunar pages.
- The Travelling Fellowship award of \$3,000.00 and bursary of \$1000.00 for the successful SAPC and NAPCRG winners
- Conference First time presenter award \$250.00 and associated costs of the conference
- New Zealand membership has been very encouraging but need to convince them to remain members once the subsidised membership finishes
- APCReN website is being maintained by the AAAPC at \$345.00 a year

4.4. **Communications, newsletter and social media.**

- Jennifer Walker reported that the newsletter depends on the input from members and thanked all those who have contributed and supported during the year. She encouraged members to continue to submit pieces of interest
- Lynsey Browne and Jodie Oliver Baxter continue to maintain and strengthen social media. There has been significant interest and engagement in Twitter. She noted that Twitter is a great platform for advocacy and in order to make AAAPC more visible members have to support and promote

5. **Constitutional Changes**

- Discussions from the 2015 AGM to request that New Zealand has greater representation was welcomed, and that the immediate past president would join the executive as an additional member
- 5.1. The addition of Immediate Past President.- the motion was carried
- 5.2 The addition of up to 4 New Zealand members on Executive Committee. The motion was agreed and Lauralie Richard and Tim Stokes were nominated and elected to the executive as the additional members
- The addition of 2 extra co-opted members on Executive Committee was discussed and it was agreed that this was already covered in the constitution as we have the option of up to 4 co-opted members at any one time. It was felt that it was not necessary to amend the constitution to include a nominee of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and a nominee of the Australian College of Remote and Rural Medicine.

6. **Election of Office Bearers 2016/2017**

- President: Grant Russell re-elected unopposed
- Secretary: Dimity Pond re-elected
- Treasurer: Suzanne McKenzie stepped down Phyllis Lau elected
- Editor: Jennifer Walker re-elected
- Past President – Nick Zwar
- New Zealand: Sue Pollon and Ngaire Kerse were re-elected. Lauralie Richards and Tim Stokes elected
- Tasmania: Jan Radford re-elected
- NSW: Michelle Guppy and Liz Halcomb re-elected
- VIC: Danielle Mazza re-elected
- ACT: Kirsty Douglas re-elected
- WA: Alistair Vickery was re-elected
- SA Richard Reed and Oliver Franks elected
- QLD: Sarah Larkins re-elected
- The 4 co-opted members to include
- Student Early Career Researcher: Jodie Oliver Baxter.
- PHC Conference Convener: Christina Hagger.
- RACGP: Bianca Brijnath
- ACRRM: TBD

7. **Other Business**

7.1. **International relationships:** Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC) and North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) A general discussion on the positive relationship that the AAAPC has developed and has opened up many possibilities

7.2. **Reflections of the future of the AAAPC:** GR led discussion on the importance of developing a strategic plan for the future.

- Nick Zwar noted that the President is burdened with a lot of the work and it is often difficult to sustain and all agreed that this should be looked at in the future.
- Ellen McIntyre announced that she will be retiring in July and Richard Reed from Flinders University will be the new director of PHCRIS from 1st July 2016. Ellen will remain involved in PHCRIS, but in a different capacity. Her tireless work in primary care over many years was appreciated and on behalf of AAAPC Grant thanked her and acknowledged the amazing contribution to the PHCRIS and to Australian primary care
- The meeting celebrated Nick Zwar's appointment of Dean of Medicine Wollongong.

Next Meeting PHC Research Conference 2017

