

AAAPC AGM 2017

PHC Research Conference Brisbane

Pulmans Hotel

Tuesday 8th August 2017 7.30-8.30am

1. **Attendance:** *Grant Russell, Jennifer Walker, Dimity Pond, Nick Zwar, Geoff Mitchell Sarah Larkins Phyllis Lau, Lynsey Brown, Richard Reed, Liz Halcomb, Mieke Van Driel, Lauralie Richard, Marie Pirotta, Mark Harris, Tim Stokes, Meredith Temple Smith, Claire Jackson, Gerard Gill, Sarah Larkins, Charlotte Hespe, Kirsty Douglas, Mieke Van Driel, Claire Heal Michelle Guppy, Nigel Stocks, Sarah Dennis, Claire Heale*
2. **Apologies:** *Oliver Frank, Jon Emery, Kelsey Hegarty, Susan Wearne, Felicity GoodYear Smith, Jane Smith, Sanjyot Vagholkar, Jane Gunn, Lena Sancu, Margaret Kay, Emma Warnecke, Irene Blackberry, Ngaire Kerse, Caroline Johnson, Joan Henderson, Chris Del Mar, Doris Young, Joan Henderson, John Furler Kyle Eggelton, Anna Wood, Susan Webster, Sue Pullon, Michael Kidd, Jo-Anne Manski Nankervis, Louise Stone, Liz Sturgiss, Samantha Chakrobarty, Jennifer Reath*
3. **Minutes of 2016 Annual General Meeting:**
 - o The minutes of the AGM 2016 accepted as correct.
 - o *Moved by Lauralie Richard Seconded by Kirsty Douglas*
 - 3.1. Business arising from the minutes. (AGM 2016)

Strategic Plan: Grant Russell (GR) reported on the lengthy process of developing the plan over the past year and he on the importance of the survey conducted within the membership which enabled the strategic working group to develop a picture of what the members valued.

 - o GR reported on the highly successful planning meeting that was held in Melbourne and thanked all who attended, including the three members of the New Zealander executive who travelled over. The Strategic Plan was expanded and refined, and special thanks goes to Brooke Vandenberg for her work on pulling it all together
 - o GR spoke about the inclusion of a vision and goals for the organisation, and a series of actions were articulated.
 - o The mission was refined from promoting and developing the discipline of primary care to being the Australia and New Zealand's leading advocate for high quality primary care research, education, policy and practice.
 - o Claire Jackson congratulated the committee on successfully covering off on all the things that the organisation has been aspiring to do for a long time. It was fantastic to see good crisp actions linked with all the strategies. The only question is one of resources and do we have the resources to deliver on the actions.
 - o Goal 1 – 'To become a visible effective and sustainable organisation' is crucial and the most important action is the reformulation of the governance of AAAPC so that all roads do not lead to the President.
 - o There needs to be a focus on the four key working groups. Identifying the subgroups that have responsibilities for primary care policy and advocacy, membership and marketing, early career research and conference and professional development is required.
 - o The governance of the subgroups was discussed and it was felt that we might need to go beyond the elected committee to make them work and some constitutional changes may be required in the future.
 - o Claire Jackson noted that there are many people in the organisation with specific skills who would be willing to be involved.
 - o Meredith Temple-Smith noted that in order to be more publically visible we need to be more nimble. It might be necessary to authorise the policy and advocacy subgroup to talk on behalf of the whole organisation going forward. This might require a constitutional change in the future.
 - o Dimity Pond and Mark Harris speculated on the possibility of collaborating with the Primary Health networks in New Zealand and Australia, PHCRIS, Health Services Research Association and Research Australia.
 - o There was a general discussion on communication strategies and ways to attract new members. Michelle Guppy felt that we needed to reassess and do more in our social media presence. Lynsey Brown noted that she has been collaborating with ECR's in New Zealand and Australia to form a bigger team on developing the Twitter account to cover the broader range of primary care.

- Nigel Stokes (NS) noted that increasing the AAAPC profile to the general public could include having a media representative who could be contacted to comment on issues around primary health care. We could tap into the 'Conversation' this way.
- NS Suggested another way to increase profile and discuss issues was to organise a luncheon in Canberra and invite politicians. He will report back to the group in October with approx costs.
- There was a brief discussion on reduction in conference costs if you were a member and the reduction could be equivalent to the membership fee.
- GR forwarded the motion that we adopt the Strategic Plan.
 - *Proposed Claire Heal Secoded Meredith Temple Smith*
- Sub committees to report back on developments at the next AGM.

4. Reports

4.1. **Presidents Report** - Grant Russell reported on the major activities and issues of the year:

- GR reported that we have made positive steps in transition from an Australian GP focused organisation to one that is adopting a broader primary health care focus with the richness of New Zealand as part of the mix.
- GR acknowledged the continuing input from New Zealand and non GP members
- GR noted the ongoing challenges with research funding.
- GR felt that we are developing into a more nimble and responsive organisation with positive support from various parts of the Government, especially in relation to MMRF.
- AAAPC has been able to develop stronger collaborations and links with SAPC and NAPCRG.
- GR noted that he will be stepping down as President, but looking forward to taking the role as Past President. He was delighted with the New Zealand involvement and that there are so many passionate young academics wanting to be involved with AAAPC.

4.2 **New Zealand Report** – Tim Stokes (TS) reported on behalf of the New Zealand members.

- Since the last AGM, New Zealand has expanded the committee representation from two to four. He noted that Sue Pullon and Ngaire Kerse will be stepping down and Katharine Wallis and Eileen McKinlay will join the executive.
- TS thanked GR for continuing to make the New Zealanders welcome and especially the involvement they had on the planning day.
- TS noted that the biggest challenges are how do we engage with the wider New Zealand membership and how can we grow and promote the benefits to our colleagues.
- TS noted that the Research Weekend being held on in September was open to all.
- TS reported on the recently released New Zealand Health Research strategy which has provided some optimism to both research and primary care going forward.

4.3 **Treasurers Report**

- Phyllis Lau (PL) reported on the financial status.
- The financial condition of the organisation depends entirely on membership subscription and it is getting increasingly difficult to fund the activities due to dropping membership
- The major cost of the organisation is salary, but we also have to cover the annual bursaries, prizes, maintenance of the website, MYOB and bank charges The Travelling Fellowship is \$3,000.00, the SAPC and NAPCRG bursary are \$500.00 each.
- Marie Pirotta noted that there was a discussion a number of years ago on changing the annual invoicing from late January to July 1st to help plan the year ahead.
- KD felt that it might be worthwhile approaching the RACGP who get the Commonwealth funding to run the program and asking if they would consider, as part of a supporting role for AAAPC, sponsoring all registrars for one year while they are doing their academic post.
- Claire Jackson noted that we could approach organisations and offer Organisational Membership.
- PL noted there had been discussion at the planning day on the possibility of a 3 year membership or automatic deduction of membership for the following year once

signed up

ACTION: Committee to draft letter to the RACGP

- PL noted that we need to decrease the expenses and she will look into ways this could be done
- Nigel Stokes suggested that it might be worth contacting the all the Australian PHNs to become organisational members

MOTION: That the meeting request the sub group on the Executive of the AAAPC and the members to target, explore and implement options for increasing and improving the financial situation of the Organisation.

Moved Dimity Pond Seconded by Mieke Van Driel

4.3 Communications, newsletter and social media.

- Lynsey Brown updated the meeting on the recent progress of social media. There are now 350 Twitter followers and steadily increasing each month. As part of the strategic plan we hope to have a steady increase in our social media output.
- Jennifer Walker was thanked for her terrific contribution to the Newsletter over the past two years

5 Election of Office Bearers 2017/2018

- Grant Russell announced that he would be standing down as president and Kirsty Douglas accepted the nomination of President. Dimity Pond thanked Grant on behalf of the committee and wider membership for his outstanding work over the past two years
- President: Kirsty Douglas nominated and elected unopposed
- Secretary: Dimity Pond re-elected unopposed
- Treasurer: Phyllis Lau re-elected unopposed
- Editor: Elizabeth Sturgiss elected unopposed
- Past President: Grant Russell
- New Zealand: Lauralie Richards and Tim Stokes re-elected unopposed Katharine Wallis and Eileen McKinlay elected
- Tasmania: Jan Radford re-elected unopposed
- NSW: Michelle Guppy and Liz Halcomb re-elected unopposed
- VIC: Danielle Mazza re-elected unopposed
- ACT: Louise Stone elected unopposed
- WA: Alistair Vickery re-elected unopposed
- SA Richard Reed and Oliver Frank re-elected unopposed
- QLD: Sarah Larkins re-elected unopposed, Lauren Ball elected
- NT: Remains vacant
- The 4 co-opted members to include
- Student Early Career Researcher :Lena Von Schuckman
- RACGP: Bianca Brijnath re-elected unopposed
- Nick Zwar
- ACRRM: Lucie Walters

6 Other Business

6.1 RACGP PBRN closed EOI:

- Kirsty Douglas informed the meeting that she had written to the College as an ANU HOD expressing her concern about the unsatisfactory process.
- Claire Jackson wondered if the AAAPC should respond in some way whether we should offering support for future opportunities or question how to avoid something like this happening in the future.
- A general discussion on ways that the AAAPC could engage more closely. Mike Van Driel felt that this is an opportunity for the AAAPC to be a facilitator or intermediary in that research space. To be given the opportunity to disseminate to our members or to build a proposal collaboratively.
- Grant Russell noted that that if APCReN had not been on ice it would have been an ideal opportunity to engage.
- Danielle Mazza felt that we need stronger links with the operational level of the College either via email list or create a sub- committee that could work with them They are increasingly managing a number of programs of funding streams that directly affect the membership but we have no close connection to them .Unless we build a regular connection we will continue to have a broad lack of engagement,

possibly meet on a regular basis. For our influence and their success we need to work together. It was noted that the RACGP is developing a greater interest in research and this needs to be applauded. It was felt that it would be open to better connections and current Chair Tania Winzenberg and past chair Nigel Stokes both felt that much work had been done to progress. A motion proposed by Danielle Mazza that the AAAPC engage with the CEO to develop a regular meeting schedule. Seconded by Meredith Temple Smith

- Kirsty Douglas closed the meeting, acknowledging the previous executive and looking forward to the two years ahead. She felt that there might be some advantages of having a President located in Canberra because it might make some of the meetings with the Department a little easier to arrange

Next Meeting PHC Research Conference 2018