

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine

Annual General Meeting Minutes from the Meeting

Date: Thursday, 17 September 2015
Time: 1.00pm to 1.45pm
Location: Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2, Mezzanine Level
Cnr of Merivale and Glenelg Streets, South Bank, Brisbane

Present:

Voting members: Sohileh Aran, Elizabeth Baer, David Baker, Barry Bland, Mark Bloch, Christopher Bourne, Mark Boyd, David Brockman, Rebecca Brown, Megan Campbell, Dianne Carey, Alison Castley, Deborah Couldwell, Elizabeth Crock, Levinia Crooks, Philip Cunningham, Ren Del, William Donohue, Julian Elliott, David Fowler, Martyn French, Manoji Gunathilake, Nikitah Habraken, Rochelle Hamilton, Sonja Hill, Jennifer Hoy, Sarah Huffam, Claire Italiano, Penny Kenchington, Carolyn Lang, Joseph Leer, Christopher Lemoh, Sharon Lewin, Ian Mackenzie, Alexandra Marceglia, John McAllister, Scott McGill, Stephanie McLean, James McMahon, Jeffrey McMullen, Nicolas Medland, Richard Moore, Graham Neilsen, Duc Nguyen, David Nolan, Catherine O'Connor, Michelle O'Connor, Maree O'Sullivan, Louise Owen, Matthew Pitman, Nanette Presswell, Patricia Price, Anne Robertson, Kate Ross, Diane Rowling, Joe Sasadeusz, Claudette Satchell, Darcy Smith, Mekala Srirajalingam, Muirgen Stack, Caroline Chun Mei Thng, Vanessa Towell, Janine Trevillyan, Thomas Turnbull, Michelle Walsh, Emily Wheeler, Kim Wilson, Belinda Wozencroft, Edwina Wright, Trent Yarwood.

Non-Voting members: None.

Proxies: Margaret Bain, Scott Bowden, Simon Briggs, Katherine Brown, Andrew Carr, Thomas Carter, Catherine Cherry, Damian Conway, Ben Cowie, Emma Day, Arden Dearden, Basil Donovan, Greg Dore, Christopher Fairley, Michael Beni Falemaka, Ed Gane, Charles Gilks, Rupert Handy, Joan Ingram, Hayden Jose, Alison Kerr, Julian Langton-Locktan, Lewis Marshall, Gail Matthews, John McBride, Graeme McDonald, Jennifer MacLachlan, Heather McNamee, Arun Mennon, Karen Nairn, Matthew O'Rourke, Rebecca Overbury, Goran Pervan, Craig Rodgers, Norman Roth, Tina Schmidt, Karen Seager, Michael Seah, Shailendra Sawleshwarkar, Gilda Tachedjian, Mark Thomas, Emanuel Vlahkis, Lynette Wray.

MARK: Welcome everyone. As of this morning ASHM has a financial membership of 567 full voting members. The constitution requires that 10% of the membership participate in the Annual General Meeting, either by being present at the meeting or by proxy. Quorum for this meeting is therefore 56 people. I will hand over to Levinia to explain the process for voting.

LEVINIA: We have been notified of 44 proxies. If anyone holds a proxy and has not yet told the registration staff can you please do so now.

Members present, in person, can hold a maximum of 5 proxies. Non-Voting member representatives of members can attend the meeting and exercise their proxy vote, but they must provide the registration desk with photo id and have the nomination form with them or held by the office.

Each member will have been provided with one yellow voting slip, representing their own individual vote. Individual holding proxies will have been given one blue voting slip for each proxy they hold.

A red vote against voting slip will have been provided to any person holding a proxy for a member who chose to vote against the motion on notice. If you are holding one of these you can also use it when voting for or against procedural motions.

We also have a number of observers at today's meeting. These are Organisational Sustaining Members, other non-voting members or affiliates. I would ask observers not to raise their hands during the voting. All votes cast must be cast using the voting slips provided. When asked to cast your vote please splay your votes, so the monitors can easily count your votes.

MARK: We have received apologies from Associate Professor Vanita Parekh, Stuart Loveday, Sue Best and Deborah Bateson.

Are there any further apologies? No.

I have been advised that we have reached Quorum.

I declare the meeting open at 1.02 pm

MARK: The minutes from last year's meeting were available as you entered and were mailed with the notice and reminder of meeting. Is there any discussion about those minutes? No.

Can I have a member who was present at last year's meeting move that the minutes be accepted.

Moved: Philip Cunningham. Seconded: Vanessa Towell. Unanimous.

Levinia can you take us through any matters arising from the Minutes.

LEVINIA: The Board undertook last year to try and fill the casual vacancy, created by Edwina Wright not taking up the role of Immediate Past President, with a member from New Zealand. We did this and Joan Ingram, ID Physician from Auckland joined the Board and I am pleased to say that Joan stood for election this year and was elected unopposed, being the only nominee from NZ.

MARK: The President's Report is published in the Annual Report. I am happy to present this to members. Members will recall that the annual report has been posted on the website since last week and hard copies of the report made available for you at this meeting.

In the interests of time I will assume that members have read my report as published in the Annual Report, but I am happy to answer any questions.

The financial report is also included in the Annual Report and Levinia is happy to take questions. I would like to draw members' attention to the Director's Financial Statement.

In order for us to discuss the Annual Report including the President's Report and the Annual Financial Statement, can I have someone move the report?

Moved: Trent Yarwood. Seconded: Emily Wheeler. Carried.

MARK: It is my responsibility to let you know that we have again seen a decline in income in the past year. This was not unexpected and we have made a concerted effort throughout the year to rein in spending and reduce our losses.

We have put a number of processes and actions in place to reverse this trend and we are still looking at more ways to return to an operating surplus.

The 2014 International AIDS Conference, while excellent for Australia and for sustaining a focus on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health presented ASHM with significant funding difficulties as we had no conference but we have considerable expense associated with the Conference.

All our costs are going up and revenues are staying the same or going down. I think we can trade out of this and there are a great many new activities which the secretariat is exploring.

Although our operating loss for the year appears to be \$700,000 this is in part due to a change to the approach we are taking to dealing with Conference and other income which straddles financial years. In the past we have recognised conference income in the year it was received. From this year it is recognised in the year that the Conference is held. That means there is about \$400,000 income which has been received this year that will not appear on the books until next financial year. This is a one off change, which while happening for sound accounting reasons, makes this year's accounts look bad. The Auditors also make reference to this in their notes.

Unfortunately, ASHM, like other agencies in the HIV and development area was victim to the massive cuts to the aid and development budget. We are continuing to resource the International Division until the end of the year, while we explore alternative opportunities.

I will take this opportunity to remind members there is a special session being held late tomorrow to look at options for ASHM's International program and I would urge all members to attend that if you can.

As members may know Anna Roberts has just left ASHM and Australia to take up a Research Fellowship in Public Health and Human Rights at Georgetown in the USA. This is a great opportunity for Anna. Scott McGill has moved from the International Division to the Education and Policy Division, replacing Anna.

I would like to thank Nadine and her team and Ian Johnson the new Acting Business Services Manager. Ian has brought a level of business and auditing skill to the Society which is greatly needed in these difficult economic times.

MARK: Do members have any questions? None.

I would like to move that the annual report be accepted.

All those in favour: All. All those against: None. Unanimous.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION:

MARK: A special resolution was circulated some weeks ago in accordance with the Constitution. A special resolution changes the Constitution and as such it requires 75% of members present in person or by proxy to support it in order for it to be carried.

Copies of the resolution were available at the door. This is an important change and as a result I think warrants understanding and discussion. But realistically it is a house keeping change. We are proposing that the organisation change its name. This is a fundamental change for an organisation, but in the case of ASHM I think it is catching up administratively with what we have in fact been doing for some time.

As you can see from the document there is broad support for this name change and we hope that it means that colleagues in the hepatitis and sexual health areas who do not also work in HIV feel welcome to play a key role in the organisation.

The Motion is moved by Prof Ed Gane and seconded by A/Prof Catherine O'Connor.

Is there any discussion?

Martyn French spoke in favour of the name change and said he thought that ASHM had been working across the areas very well, not at the expense of work in any area, and as such he was very happy to support the motion.

Mark Bloch said he strongly supported the name change with the logo remaining the same.

Catherine O'Connor said as a sexual health physician on the Board, she strongly supported the motion as it reflects the nature of the organisation.

Ed Gane as a hepatologist strongly supports the motion. ASHM has a large role in the hepatitis space.

LEVINIA: All those members wanting to support the motion can you please raise your hand and clearly separate your votes. You should hold your own vote and any proxies. Can we please have a count of votes.

All those members against the motion can you please raise your hand and clearly separate your votes. You should hold your own vote and any proxies. Can we please have a count of votes

All those against: One. Carried.

ELECTION OF THE BOARD and OUTGOING MEMBERS

MARK: Firstly I would like to thank our going Board members, Philip Cunningham who has been on the board for a number of years, holding the position of Treasurer, before we became a company limited by Guarantee and then taking up the position of Vice President. Philip has made a vital contribution to the Board, in the area of Testing and in our international program and also as an active member of the Finance, Risk Management and Audit Committee.

I would also like to thank Ed Gane who has been representing hepatology interests on the Board and Ed has been a great resource for the Board, secretariat and members.

I would also like to thank James Ward. James has been in the designated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander position. James has been hugely active, with the Conference Division working on three or four successive conferences and again coming in on the Indigenous program for this conference. These are both Board appointed positions and the new Board will consider appointment when it meets tomorrow.

I will now ask Levinia to take us through the outcome of the election.

LEVINIA: In accordance with the Constitution we held 2 ballots. One to select two Vice Presidents. Ben Cowie and Mark Bloch were the successful nominees for those positions. Congratulations.

There was then a ballot to select 4 board members. These were from states where there were more than one nomination. The successful candidates were Catherine O'Connor and Gail Matthews from NSW and Liz Crock and Julian Elliott from Victoria.

LEVINIA: We have two final items of Business.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

As a company limited by guarantee, we are now required to officially appoint our auditors for another year. I propose that we continue to utilize the services of Walker Wayland Accountants.

Moved: Liz Crock. Seconded: Mark Bloch. Carried.

LEVINIA: The last item for the agenda is the setting of our annual membership fees.

Members have previously agreed to a change to the fee and then managing that fee through annual adjustments. This was not done on a couple of occasions for practical reasons. I suggest that the membership fee is increased annually by CPI. This will help the society to stay in step with costs.

Is there any discussion? None.

Moved: Levinia Crooks. Seconded: Edwina Wright. Unanimous.

MARK: Thank you, that brings to a close the formal issues for the meeting at 1.28pm.