

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research, Swiss Grand Resort and Spa, Bondi.

Tuesday 7 December, 2010.

Open: 05.28pm

1) Present:

Flavie Waters, Andrew Mackinnon, Chris Gale, Phil Mitchell, Phil Boyce, Kathleen Griffiths, Kanupriya Kalia (NM), Brin Grenyer, Beth Molinar, Phil Batterham, Alison Cleave, Liana Leach, Peter Butterworth, Philip Burgess, Amy Morgan, Belinda Liddell, Enda Byrne, Juliette Tobias-Webb, Shantel Duffy, Sue Cotton, Terry Lewin, Chris Pantelis, Stan Catts, Jess Cubis, Helen Herrman, Simone Reppermund, Katrin Seehar, Frederick R Walker, John McGrath, Eoin Killackey, Lana Williams, Felice Jacka, Jo Badcock, Melissa Green, Vaughn Carr, Tom Burne, Cyndi Weickert, Anthony Harris, Claire Kelly, Patrick McGorry, Frances Kay-Lambkin, Maxine Croft.

2) Apologies:

Vera Morgan, Elizabeth Scarr, Gulietta Valuri.

3) Confirmation of minutes – AGM 2009

Deferred to 2011 meeting

4) Issues arising from previous AGM minutes

Deferred to 2011 meeting

5) President's Report (Prof. Helen Christensen)

Helen addressed members and mentioned that a central role for ASPR this year has been keeping track of mental health funding and reminding the Minister for Health & Ageing and Warwick Anderson about this matter. Helen has sent a paper in to the Minister's office (see attached document). Of particular worry is the absence of funding for 4 new NHMRC schemes this year. Helen believes that researchers will have a better chance to get change in this area if researchers are all seen as being "on the same side" and working together. Helen also points out that ASPR is serious about its advocacy role and is very interested in having support from other research groups in psychiatry/neuroscience. This could happen in 2 ways (a) a joint submission to the Minister and the NHMRC by related but separate groups such as the Neuroscience and Schizophrenia groups, (b) conferences that run together or were consistently linked (c) formal associations between ASPR and a range of National Groups such as Neuroscience, Schizophrenia, Epidemiology, Public Health, internet interventions, etc.

Helen discussed the use of ICE as the conference organiser this year, which has raised many new issues. These include (a) the treasurer and president have been doing more work, (b) management

of the conference by the local committee when ASPR is the engager of the conference organiser has proven tricky, and this year only workable because of the high degree of engagement and professional expertise of the local conference committee. The ASPR Executive committee will be working over the next few months to develop a Memorandum of Understanding which allows this to progress smoothly in future years.

Electronic voting was discussed and Helen mentioned that it has been set up now but was not needed in the latest election as there was only one candidate per position. Helen also mentioned that on the admin side, ASPR has consolidated its membership lists, files, databases, banking accounts etc. The number of financial members has risen from 154 in 2009 to 269 in 2010, and there is now a electronic database of members which is managed externally by a membership management company.

Helen finished by thanking the ASPR committee for its work over the year. Special thanks to Robyn Langdon and Andrew Mackinnon, and Kanupriya Kalia for her secretarial support.

6) Financial Report (Assoc. Prof. Robyn Langdon)

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ending 30 September 2010

| | 30 Sept 2009 | 30 Sept 2010 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Income | | |
| ASPR Membership Fees | 6100 | 25845.00 |
| CBA Interest | 23.61 | 1.85 |
| Term Deposit Interest | 3089.26 | 709.18 |
| ING Account Interest | 952.06 | 1090.51 |
| Conference Awards(Eli Lilly Oration & Schering Plough) | 9000 | |
| Eli-Lilly Grants for 2009-2011 Awards | | 28000.00 |
| Schering-Plough for 2009 Award | | 1000.00 |
| Conference surplus/return of float | 10784.36 | 30954.91 |
| | \$29,949.29 | \$87,601.45 |
| TOTAL INCOME | | |
| Expenditure | | |
| Teleconferencing | 310.50 | 385.81 |
| Postage/Computer mail/Web costs/printing | 485 | 476.78 |
| Travel expenses (Meetings) | 542 | 0 |
| Administration/membership management | 2000 | 4029.95 |
| ASPR Secretariat Support Salaries | 13116.57 | 7900.96 |
| Consumer Affairs | 78.30 | 40.90 |

| | | |
|--|------------------|---------------------|
| Refunds/Reimbursements/Conference profit payment | 2800 | 162.50 |
| Merchant Fees/Bank Charges | 392.49 | 1217.57 |
| ASMR Subscription | 302.40 | 312.90 |
| Sponsorship of ASMR Economic Modelling Report | - | 550.00 |
| Mental Health Council Subscriptions | 110.00 | 0 |
| Conference Float | 10000 | - |
| Conference management, admin & support costs | - | 36569.97 |
| Conference Consumer Award | 500 | 0 |
| Early Career Awards Conference | 4000 | 8000.00 |
| NSW Schizophrenia awards | 750 | 0 |
| Conference Best Poster & Best Debut Poster | 0 | 0 |
| Organon Award/Schering Plough/Merck | 1000 | 1000.00 |
| Eli Lilly for Oration Awards | 16000 | 8000.00 |
| Medals/engraving | 275 | 269.70 |
| | \$52,662 | \$68,917.04 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | | |
| <i>NET Surplus/Deficiency)</i> | -\$22,713 | +\$18,684.41 |
| Accumulated surplus at the beginning of the year | \$81497 | \$58,784.38 |
| Accumulated surplus at the end of year | \$58,784 | \$77,468.79 |

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER, 2009

CURRENT ASSETS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Commonwealth Bank –cheque account | 8171 | 26271.97 |
| Commonwealth Bank –term deposit | 36507 | - |
| ING Optimiser Account | 14106 | 51196.82 |
| | \$58784 | \$77,468.79 |
| TOTAL | | |

Of this \$77,468.79, \$20,000 is committed to the Eli-Lilly awards for 2010-2011 and \$12,000 is committed to the AFFIRM ECR awards for 2010-2012, leaving ASPR with an operating capital of \$45,468.79.

Robyn discussed the changes brought on by having ICE. ASPR was directly paying ICE's monthly management fees. A memorandum of understanding is necessary to establish who is responsible for what. Robyn also mentioned that the Term Deposit account was closed down as ASPR needed more

access to its operating funds. Convention Associates was hired to manage the membership list and is well worth it.

7) **Secretary's Report (Dr. Claire Kelly)**

Claire reported that she had been very busy this year and was often overseas and not in contact, however the constitution had been updated as was discussed the previous year.

8) **Working Parties: Reports**

i) **Knowledge Dissemination (Dr. Eoin Killackey)**

Eoin thanks Rotary for their support and stated that he was stepping down from the role of the working party rep. The Knowledge Dissemination award has been locked in for another 2 years. Helen mentioned that Robert Tait is taking over and that he has several Rotary grants.

ii) **Early Career Researchers (Assoc. Prof. Flavie Waters)**

Flavie thanked all those that attended last night's workshop, which was very successful. She reported that the Mentoring Program is still limping along, however a fair few people signed up last night at the workshop. If anyone wants to join up there is a link on the ASPR website. Flavie announced that she would be stepping down to focus on the Perth conference in 2012 and will be handing over to Lana Williams.

(iii) **Attracting New Members (Dr Elizabeth Scarr)**

Apology

9. **Other Business**

Helen opened the floor to any other business.

Biological Psychiatry Australia

Vaughn Carr started a discussion about Biological Psychiatry Australia (BPA). How is ASPR linked to BPA? Helen stated that she is not sure. Vaughn commented that the conference is very similar to what a BPA conference would be like and asked why there are two separate societies which so much overlap? How to avoid destructive division? John McGrath claimed that there is enough differentiation between the two and that there is enough energy within Australia to keep the two societies flourishing. Chris Pantelis explained that BPA is a group of people who want to get together and discuss BP nonstop and that they have access to international BP societies. ASPR should also have international linkages. He also mentioned that BPA is currently looking at when to have their meetings and perhaps ASPR and BPA should still have it together. Flavie agreed and said that it is very expensive coming from WA, and that to resolve this there needs to be dialogue between ASPR and BPA. Why was this not disseminated? It should have been sent out to all ASPR members. Maxine Croft also agreed that it was expensive coming from WA and that BPA should be held adjacent to ASPR. Chris Pantelis asked those present what they thought about the level of biological content at the conference. Claire Kelly stated that she hopes the theme is never so narrow ever again and there were gaping holes left. She also stated there was nothing interesting to her. Chris Gale said he will talk to the people in NZ and this will need to be done ASAP because he will have to talk to Brian Dean (President of BPA). Helen Herman said there needs to be a formula to cover all fields, biological psychiatry, social psychiatry. There should be an affiliation. Chris Pantelis commented that like before, there needs to be a BP group. Pat McGorry thinks that all ASPR can do is deal with ASPR and cant control the world. He would have liked to see more of a spread of topics.

He said that ASPR is a universal encompassing thing and that that is something to hold onto and ASPR should focus on strengthening this meeting instead of worrying about others. He asked if BPA would even come to ASPR? It was mentioned that integration is good, because you attend talks you normally wouldn't. Helen Christensen said that all these groups (epidemiology, public health, biological psychiatry, ASPR etc) should communicate with each other and stay informed. She said ASPR should identify these groups and invite them to one meeting.

ASMR

Pat McGorry wanted to know how ASMR works? Helen commented that ASPR was looking at being a part of ASMR but thought it would be better to stay alone. Claire Kelly said that each year ASMR splits, one year the meeting focuses on cancer, the next year it is a general meeting.

Biological Psychiatry Definition

Vaughn Carr wanted clarification on the definition of Biological Psychiatry and commented that he felt cornered into joining something he can't define. Jeff Cubis said he supports Helen Hermans model.

Funding

Helen Herman brought up the possibility of being aware of other funding in other countries. For example the NIH in Canada, and various means that may be good to look at as sources for funding. Pat McGorry agreed and said that she had hit the nail on the head.

NHMRC Funding

John McGrath mentioned that he was an applicant and panel member of NHMRC. NHMRC seem not to be interested in pragmatic research and suggested perhaps not to give such research applications to the NHMRC. Helen Christensen noted that mental health research funding is way behind cardiovascular research funding and that the NHMRC don't think of public health etc. Cyndi Weickert asked how it would be possible to go about creating another panel of just psychiatry. Helen Christensen agreed that this was a point to consider if we want reform within the NHMRC. Pat McGorry thanked John McGrath and stated that he was incredibly frustrated. He said that there are "special initiatives" for which researchers put in grant applications and only get 1. This is very demoralising. He has spoken to the Minister for Health and Ageing (The Hon. Mark Butler) about this. He said the ideal would be the NMH Model. Pat McGorry also stated that radical pressure on the structure is required. If only a small percentage of funding is allocated to mental health research, then how do we nurture post docs and project grants? Phil Mitchell mentioned that there was a problem with how to define "psychiatry" and "psychology". Not enough senior people want to go on the panels, however in other fields, senior members are panel members.

10. Close of Business

Meeting close 6.03pm