

# MINUTES for AAAPC Annual General Meeting 2021

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 5-6 pm AEST via Zoom

## 1. Welcome

*Phyllis Lau welcome everyone and acknowledges that this meeting is being held, wherever we are, on traditional lands of the Aboriginal people in Australia and of the Maori people in New Zealand.*

## 2. Attendance/apologies

Attended (total 62)	Apologies
Phyllis Lau (nominated proxy for Sanjyot Vagholkar), Anna Fragkoudi, Renee Fiolet, Andrew Bonney, Anisa Assifi, Annette Peart, Antony Bolton, Ben Harris-Roxas, Caroline Johnson, Chris Barton, Danielle Mazza, David Chua, Dimity Pond, Flora Hui, Grant Russell, Habiba Jahan, Hyun Song, Jane Desborough, Jenny Reath, Jianrong Zhang, Jon Emery, Kaleswari Somasundaram, Katelyn Barnes, Katherine Wallis, Kathleen O'Brien, Kirsty Douglas, Kristi Milley, Kylie Vuong, Lauren Ball, Lauren Moloney, Lena Sanci, Liz Sturgiss, Lynsey Brown, Maria de Leon-Santiago, Mark Nelson, Melinda Choy, Melis Selamoglu, Meredith Temple-Smith, Michael Kidd, Michael Wright, Nainani Abhir, Oliver Frank, Pallavi Prathivadi, Penny Abbot, Peter MacIsaac (lapsed member), Rhea Singh, Rita McMorrow, Samantha Chakraborty, Sameera Ansari, Sarah Dennis, Sarah Larkins, Shakira Milton, Sibel Saya, Tim Usherwood, Vanessa Tang, Vera Costa	Sanjyot Vagholkar, Nigel Stocks, Charlotte Hespe

## 3. Minutes and actions from 2020 AGM

*No action items from last AGM minutes. However, Phyllis Lau reported on two issues raised in the minutes:*

- 1. The issue of AAAPC's position on PBRNs – AAAPC has since last AGM developed a policy statement on the support of a national network of PBRNs and is leading active advocacy with the Australian Government Department of Health.*
- 2. The issue of encouraging participation by Indigenous primary care workers – AAAPC has since last AGM increased our commitment to dedicated scholarships for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Australians and Māori and Pacific People of New Zealand. However, we have had no Indigenous applicants. Our focus in the coming year is to target our promotion directly into the communities.*

*Minutes accepted and moved by Kirsty Douglas. **Seconded** by Grant Russell.*

## 4. Annual Reports (attached with these minutes)

- 3.1 Academic Policy and Advocacy Subcommittee by Grant Russell
- 3.2 Conference Subcommittee by Lauren Ball
- 3.3 ECR and Capacity Development Subcommittee by Rita McMorrow
- 3.4 Membership and Marketing Subcommittee by Lauralie Richard (and Kristi Milley)
- 3.5 PHC Education Subcommittee by Kylie Vuong

*President offers members attending an opportunity to ask any of the outgoing Subcommittee chairs questions. No questions forthcoming. Where no further discussions were noted, all Subcommittee reports were taken as read by members.*

*Four AAAPC Subcommittee Chairs are ending their terms at this meeting. Outgoing chairs offer thanks and farewells to all members of AAAPC.*

### 3.6 Treasurer by Chris Barton

*AAAPC is in a healthy financial state. Strong income streams via membership subscriptions. In 2021 these were our primary source of income.*

*Online conference in 2020 and 2021 have generated small profits for AAAPC.*

*Current net position is A\$161,308. There are no major expenses anticipated in FY 2021-2022. We are in a good financial position to take the risk of running an in-person conference in 2022 if so decided.*

*In consideration of the COVID-19 situation, there were no increase in membership rates in 2021. As a result of AAAPC's good financial position, AAAPC discounted student membership fees and refunded the difference to those affected by the discount decision.*

*Dimity Pond asks AAAPC's Treasurer about the \$3000 in organizational memberships we obtained. What sort of organisations were these?*

*Treasurer responds that all AAAPC organisational members are Departments of General Practice.. We had 3 in the previous year, and 3 in 2021.*

*Phyllis Lau adds that while we want to continue to promote organizational membership , we recognize that universities have been under strain from COVID-19. So AAAPC has taken a slower approach to promoting organisational memberships this year.*

*Chris Barton's role as Treasure ends at this AGM. Chris offers his thanks and farewells.*

*No further questions were tabled.*

### 3.7 President by Phyllis Lau

*President's report*

*COVID19 threatens every aspects of our lives. Despite this AAAPC continues to champion values and vision. Phyllis Lau as President of AAAPC extends gratitude to all members for their contributions to AAAPC's work, in particular people on our subcommittees and Executive Committee.*

*In 2020-2021, we have focused on a range of activities, please refer to the President's report for details.*

*However, Phyllis would like to highlight 3 collective achievements:*

- 1. Proudly leading advocacy to the Australian Department of Health for an Australian national network of PBRNs, on behalf of our members and 37 signatories representing existing PBRNs, departments of General Practice and primary care, Australian Health Research Alliance and professional organisations and colleges. This alliance is a show of unprecedented unity on the matter and AAAPC is fully committed to this advocacy because our members have clearly voiced that a fundamental approach to transforming Australia's primary care health and medical research is the need for an effective and sustainable national network. Thanks to the Executive Committee for their foresight in recognising the importance of the PBRN issue to Australian primary health care research. Thanks to members and the 37 signatories for placing trust in AAAPC. Also thanks to the Department of Health in continuing their dialogue with the AAAPC as they too recognise the importance of PBRNs to Australia's primary health care and primary health care research. Thanks to Australian Clinical Trials Alliance for their genuine support and lobbying on our behalf on this matter over the past several months.*
- 2. AAAPC has represented the interest of members and wider primary care academic research community through active advocacy and response to government policy consultations. Namely the National preventative Health Strategy, MRFF 2020-2022 Priorities Consultation, MRFF Management Review, Primary Health 10-Year Reform Steering Group recommendations. Most of this work is done by the Advocacy and Policy subcommittee led by Grant Russell – thank you. AAAPC continues to and will always regard advocacy as a key role.*
- 3. Executive commitment to the many causes of AAAPC has led to deep reflection and assessment on our*

own skills and capacity. In March 2021, the Executive Committee decided to move to a skills-based committee to meet future challenges. Thus, we assessed our committee composition against a skill matrix for the first time in AAAPC's history. We will continue to use this tool to develop our own capacity and better serve our members' interests and association. We are also engaging external administrative support on a casual basis to help reduce the burden on committee members.

Phyllis acknowledges our executives and thanks them. Even in the midst of the pandemic, AAAPC has continued its work and not "missed a beat". President is committed to continuing the work of AAAPC on behalf of its members and the Executive Committee remains united despite not being able to meet in person due to the pandemic. Thank you to the committee and all AAAPC members.

Final three outgoing Executives offer their "parting wisdom".

Liz Sturgiss extends her gratitude for the opportunity. AAAPC has grown. And looks forward to work with AAAPC into the future.

David Chua gives his thanks to the committee and all members for the experience and chance.

Melinda Choy points out that AAAPC respects, cares and nurtures for junior academics and is grateful for this.

No further questions tabled for President's report

## **5. Election of office-bearers to fill positions vacated in 2021**

Eight Executive Committee positions are now formally vacant. The vacancies are: Vice President, Secretary, Editor, Treasurer and the chairs of the Advocacy and Policy, Conference, Early Career Research and Capacity Development, Membership and Marketing sub-committees. All are 2-year terms except for the vice president and editor which are 1-year terms.

At present there are 7 nominations:

Secretary role – Shakira Milton (Uni Melb)

Treasurer role – Sebel Saya (Uni Melb)

Editor role – Katelyn Barnes (ANU)

Policy and Advocacy Chair – Jon Emery (Uni Melb)

Membership and Marketing – Kristi Milley (Uni Melb)

Early Career Research and Capacity Development Chair - Habiba Jahan (Uni Adelaide)

Conference Chair - Renee Fiolet (Deakin Uni)

As there are fewer nominations than positions available, the nominees are deemed as elected in accordance with the AAAPC Constitution. Congratulations and welcome!

At present there are no nominations for the vice president position. Floor was opened for self-nomination for role. No immediate volunteers. Phyllis has indicated that a New Zealand member would be most encouraged.

New AAAPC Executive Committee complies with the AAAPC Constitution requirements. Welcome to the new Executive Committee again.

We continue to search for the right person to fill the final vacancy. Phyllis Lau encourages embers to get in touch with her or any new or old executive committee. AAAPC is an important organisation, and we need to ensure its longevity

## **6. Other business**

(In online chat) Meredith Temple-Smith asks if new committee chairs could appoint a "junior chair"?

Yes, AAAPC does have co-chair or deputy chair roles. While they are not part of the Executive, they are invited to come to the committee meetings to observe and on occasion, to stand in place of the chair. We want to ensure that each subcommittee has a co-chair, and we encourage that.

*No other business tabled.*

## **7. Presentation of the Charles Bridges-Webb Medal and the Neil Carson Medal**

*Charles Bridges-Webb Medal named in his honour. Phyllis Lau announces that this year's winner is Professor Michael Kidd AM. Congratulations!*

*In 2020, we instated a new medal named in the honour of Prof Neil Carson AO. Focus of award is Leadership in Primary Care Education. However, the Executive Committee had adjudicated that the Neil Carson Medal will not be awarded this year.*

*Proceedings for the 2021 AAAPC AGM concludes. Thank you to all for attending.*