



Minutes of the New Zealand Association of General Surgeons

AGM 17th March 2018

Held at the Copthorne Hotel, Paihia, Bay of Islands at 1pm

Present: Please see sign in sheets – a quorum was reached.

1. Apologies were received from:

Andrew Hill, Bill Gilkison, Hugh Cooke, Graeme Roadley, Grant Coulter and Ian Civil

Condolences to the families of the following surgeons who have passed away
John Simpson, John Hopkirk, and Edward Watson

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held at the Palmerston North Convention Centre on 25th March 2017 at 1pm.

Andrew proposed that the minutes are accepted as a true and accurate record. Seconded by Philippa Mercer. Carried

3. Matters arising – nil

4. Reports

a. President's Report

Andrew Moot announced that NZAGS was developing a Practice Visit Programme to be piloted once Quality Assurance Activity signoff has been achieved. The philosophy of programme will be to share best practice and both visitors and visitees will earn CPD points for reflective practice.

Andrew also reported that the Australian Medical Council had undertaken an accreditation process of the RACS Education Programme and concluded that they substantially met the accreditation criteria.

b. Executive Director's Report

Bronwen Evans noted that Helen Glasgow had joined NZAGS as Training Manager and that Sandra Kennerley was leaving shortly.

c. Treasurer's Report

Peter Shapkov noted that NZAGS was in good financial health, with \$89,000 profit and \$1.347M in reserves.

Peter moved that the NZAGS Executive would like to raise the Membership subscription by CPI which is currently 1.6%. A full membership would rise to \$530 per annum. Seconded by Andrew Moot. Carried.

Peter moved that Deloitte are appointed as the auditors for the 2018 accounts. Seconded by Nigel Henderson. Carried.

d. Training report

Simon Bann noted that NZ trainees maintain a good pass rate in the Fellowship Exam.

Simon advised that it was likely that the Board in General Surgery will be split so that New Zealand will need to set up its own board to manage the New Zealand SET training. This comes at a time when the need for another level of the Training Committee to focus on strategic issues had become apparent. The main risk with any separation of the boards is lack of momentum of the NZ SET programme in comparison with the Australian General Surgery Programme and that all will need to work hard to ensure this does not occur.

Bronwen noted that members present will need to encourage their non-member colleagues to join the association to support the changes required for a separate training board. NZAGS will need a greater pool of members to be involved in the association.

5. Ratification of Election of Officers

The following new members of the Executive were ratified:-

Naghm AlMozany, John Lengyel and also Jason Ly as Younger Fellow Representative

Thank you to Philippa Mercer for her 12 years' service on the NZAGS Executive, including her time as president. Philippa is also one of the co-conveners of the 2019 ASM in Christchurch.

Bronwen Evans thanked Andrew Moot for his two years as Vice President, and the past two years as President and his continuation as immediate past president for the next two years. Bronwen acknowledged the considerable amount of work done by the President and members of the Executive.

6. CADENZA

Gowan Creamer talked about the New Zealand Emergency Laparotomy Audit. Ben Griffiths is the chair and will be speaking at the conference. The purpose of the audit is to improve patient outcomes – one of the key issues is the length of time from presentation to theatre. The UK model has identified some key ways to improve this. The New Zealand audit will commence in 5 New Zealand Hospitals once ethics approval has been achieved.

7. Southern Cross and NIB

Ian Burton reported that NZAGS has had several meetings with Southern Cross this year to discuss topics such as Colonoscopy Eligibility Criteria and also Patient Surveys and access to the results of these.

Philippa Mercer noted that there is no further progress on the Breast Affiliated Provider Programme.

It is likely that Southern Cross will introduce contracts for skin procedures due to the massive increase in skin procedures.

NIB is focusing on their provider cost outliers. They have reviewed all of their claims and identified the reasonable charge for operative procedures. NIB pay only the reasonable amount, the patient pays any extra.

Ian is leaving the Executive later in 2018 and asked for support for ongoing work with Southern Cross, particularly a Breast Surgeon to advise on the AFP. Richard Martin is to assist on discussions regarding skin procedures.

8. General Business

None

Andrew Moot reminded all attendees of the 2019 conference in Christchurch to be convened by Philippa Mercer, Grant Coulter and Ross Roberts

Andrew thanked the conveners of the current AAM – Usha Shan, John Lengyel and Mark Saunders

The meeting closed at 1.27pm