



Minutes of the New Zealand Association of General Surgeons

AGM held 28th May 2020

via ZOOM (due to COVID-19) at 7.30pm

Present: Amit Reddy, Siraj Rajaratnam, Wai Chang, Ian Burton, Susie Gerred, Ian Civil, Marianne Lill, Fraser Welsh, Andrew Connolly, Grant Coulter, Matt Clarke, Liz Dennett, Andrew Hill, Lincoln Israel, Garth Poole, Paul Samson, Philippa Mercer, Josie Todd

Executive Present: Julian Speight, Graeme Roadley, Simon Bann, Peter Shapkov, Alexandra Popadich, Usha Shan, Rowan French, Nigel Henderson, David Moss, Mark Stewart, Andrew Moot, Jansen Ly, Claire Nicoll, Bronwen Evans.

A quorum was reached.

1. Apologies were received from:

Mr. Bill Gilkison, Mr. Gowen Creamer, Mr. John Lengyel

There were no condolences recorded.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held at the Christchurch Town Hall on 23 March 2019

at 1pm.

Mr. Andrew Moot proposed that the minutes are accepted as a true and accurate record.

Seconded by Mr. Ian Burton. Carried

3. Matters arising – nil

4. Reports

a. President's Report – Mr. Julian Speight

Report tabled and taken as read. Looking at rebooking our 2020 New Plymouth conference in 2021 to minimize the financial impacts of the cancellation of the 2020 conference.

b. Executive Director's Report – Ms. Bronwen Evans

Report tabled and taken as read. Thank you to Mr. Peter Shapkov for all his service as treasurer. He is stepping down having fulfilled his two terms. It's been a pleasure working with you.

c. Treasurer's Report – Mr. Peter Shapkov

Report tabled and taken as read. Mr. Peter Shapkov noted that NZAGS was in good financial health, with \$88k surplus and \$1.474M in reserves. There is expected to be a large IT spend in 2020 of around \$150k on SOLA – due to changes to training moving to competency overview.

d. Chair of the NZBiGS – Mr. Simon Bann

Report tabled and taken as read. Acknowledges the great work the new committee has done over the past eighteen months and the new curriculum. The introduction of which is delayed until 2022 with the new 5-year training starting. A big thank you to Elizabeth Dennett who has resigned from the academic chair and Greg O'Grady has agreed to step into that role.

Exams are all in place for Sept 8-9. Trainee Selection September 2.

e. Chair of NZ Training Committee – Mr. David Moss

Report tabled and taken as read. Twenty-three New Zealanders eligible to sit the exam. This could mean quite a lot of surgeons finish this December. Though not in our remit, what the newly qualified surgeons will do is a bit uncertain. Certainly, it's looking like limited, or no fellowships, due to COVID-19. As a NZ community we may need to look at ways to accommodate the newly qualified surgeons. It's unlikely we'd take on 23 new trainees in 2021 so may be some positions.

5. Special resolution – Update the NZAGS Constitution- Bronwen Evans

With the advent of the NZBiGS, the Executive Committee thought it prudent to add the Chair of this board to the Executive Officers list. In addition, the Executive want to introduce a 'New Fellow' officer to ensure exposure to the newer fellows as to what the NZAGS and Executive does for general surgery in NZ. A way to ensure succession planning moving forward.

a. Add NZBiGS Chair to the list of officers

Mr Andrew Hill raised some concerns about using the name NZBiGS. A board inferred perhaps a higher status than was indicated, and he suggested renaming the board to NZ Education Committee (NZEC) or some such by removing the word 'board'.

Others thought having two 'education' type committees may be confusing.

The vote passed unanimously to add the NZBiGS Chair to the list of Executive Officers.

However, it was also noted that the NZAGS Executive would look at whether NZAGS needs to rename the board. However, any name should reflect what the board actually does. The Executive are to discuss at the next Executive Committee meeting.

b. Add the Young Fellows position to the executive list of officers.

Voted and passed unanimously.

6. To Appointment new auditors – Mr. Peter Shapkov

It was passed unanimously that NZAGS appoint new auditors Dent and Health Chartered Accountants.

7. Ratification of Annual Membership subscription

Mr. Peter Shapkov moved that the NZAGS Executive would keep the Annual Membership subscription at the current level of \$540pa (incl GST) for a full membership. Seconded by Mr. Julian Speight. Carried.

8. Notification of New Executive Officer Positions

Notification that the NZAGS Executive voted Mr. Graeme Roadley as the new President. He moves up from his role of Vice-President which he has held for two years.

A big thank you to Mr. Julian Speight for completing his two years as President and previous to that Vice-President. Julian stays on as immediate Past-President and we thank him for his considerable contribution to NZAGS over his terms. Julian thanked the staff of NZAGS for their support and how much he's enjoyed his term as President. He wished Graeme well.

Mr. Rowan French has been elected to be Vice-President and he will become President at the end of Graeme's two-year term in March 2022.

9. Notification of a new Treasurer

Notification that current Executive member Dr. Aleksandra Popadich is taking over as Treasurer from Mr. Peter Shapkov who has completed his two terms. Peter has done a marvelous job, thank you.

10. NZAGS Practice Visits Programme Trial Update – Mr. Rowan French

Early March myself, Mr. Nigel Henderson, Mr. Andrew Moot and Mr. Gowan Creamer undertook one practice visit each in two teams. One rural practice and one metropolitan practice were visited, both in the South Island. The visits were held over one day.

Reports have been compiled and discussed by the Practice Visits Committee, and findings reports sent back to the visitees.

Feedback from both visitors and visitees has been very positive. Only minor changes have been recommended, nothing major. To complete the trial NZAGS hopes to do two more visits by the end of the year if allowed under COVID-19 situation.

Currently in the process of seeing what we can gain in terms of CPD credit for both the visitees and the visitors. Encouraging those who have been visitees to become visitors in the future.

Mr. Andrew Hill is head of the Professional Standards Committee and is happy to work with NZAGS on this. NZOA and AOA have been doing this for a while. Andrew's paper in the ANZ journal of surgery showed that PV (admittedly not in surgery) delivered no real benefit. If NZAGS are using it for CPD points that is reasonable, but if positioning it as something you have to do, NZAGS needs to prove it's valuable, and secondly who is funding the costs associated with them. NZOA have found no 'problem surgeons' and Andrew was concerned at some statement that PSDB were using PV to weed out older near retirement surgeons.

Mr Andrew Connolly suggests that the Medical Council views them as positive and that PV have been proven to be a sound 'collegial' tool. They have been found (again not in surgery) to be of considerable benefits in work life balance, collegiality, planning for retirement etc. It's not pass fail but more focused on best practice and sharing knowledge. It's also CPD points for those surgeons employed in public hospitals. Don't over-complicate the PV. NZOA members voted before their programme started and 97% said it was a waste of time. After the trial the members voted again and 95% said make it compulsory and up the fees to pay for it.

Mr. Rowan French responded by stating no plans to make PV mandatory. That NZAGS has talked and reviewed both the NZOA and the RANZCOG programmes, with the latter sitting better with the NZAGS goals for our PV programme. As to costs, it's expense recovery only, but how do you compare it to a conference for example. (Mr. Andrew Connolly thinks a PV is way better than attending a conference and the CPD points should reflect this).

Mr. Garth Poole suggested a sound process was to put a good performing visitor with an under performing visitor to do the visit together, as it also made the under performing visitor realise they need to do some work.

Mr. Andrew Moot stressed it's not about finding underperforming surgeons.

Dr. Philippa Mercer asked how we would fund PV.

Bronwen Evans explained the trail costs are covered by NZAGS but moving forward we would expect the visitee to cover the cost of the visit – looking at around \$1650 per visit. Only cost recovery.

11. General Business

None

12. Next ASM – New Plymouth 2021 – convenor Nigel Henderson

Thank you to Nigel to agreeing to go again – When Things Go Pear Shaped-Take Two

Mr. David Moss – Please implore members to help and attend New Plymouth since Nigel, who is in a very small regional center with not very many surgeons, is having to work on the conference for two years in a row. It's a big ask and we should all support him.

Mr. Nigel Henderson - hopes Australia will be in the bubble and also to focus on getting more female speakers on the programme.

NZAGS staff will be there to do as much work as possible with Workz4u.

Other notes:

Dr. Philippa Mercer NZNB is next week and will be looking for a report. Won't be a F2F NZNB meeting until December. Julian will provide a report for next week.

Julian thanked all surgeons for how they have handled the COVID-19 in NZ. Stay safe.

The meeting closed at 8.34pm