



NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF GENERAL SURGEONS

Promoting Surgical Excellence

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Saturday 27th August 2022 at 1.00pm, Soundings Theatre, Te Papa, Wellington.

Members present – Philippa Mercer, Matt Clark, Andrew Moot, Jon Potter, John Fleischl, Susan Gerred, Sarah Rennie, Tom Morgan, Chun-yen Wu, Rishi Ram, Nigel Henderson, Paul Samson, Garth Poole, Jay Maloney, Avi Kumar, Jane Strang, Nick McIntosh, +6 on filed sign-up sheet.

Executive present - Rowan French (President), Vanessa Blair (Vice President), Alex Popadich (Treasurer), Bronwen Evans (Executive Director), Simon Bann, Gary Stone, Chris Harmston, Peter Shapkov, Julian Speight, Deborah Wright, Bevan Jenkins, Roberto Sthory

In attendance – Ray Collins (Minutes)

1. **Apologies** – Sarah Abbott, Mark Stewart, Jasen Li, Ian Civil

Condolences – no condolences recorded

2. **Minutes of previous AGM**

Peter Shapkov proposed that the minutes of the last AGM held in New Plymouth 27 March 2021 were a true and accurate record of the meeting. Seconded by Roberto Sthory. Motion carried.

3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

None.

4. **Association Reports**

- a. **President, R. French**

The report was tabled and taken as read. Rowan French noted that we are currently in a period of substantial change. The Executive has recently had substantial discussions on proposed models of care and Rowan noted that NZAGS need to be proactive and advocate for patients and workforce. Within RACS a name change is being discussed. At an Association level, we are looking

at enhancing our Te Reo incorporation within the organization. We will consult with members. With regard to gendered titles, Rowan noted, there will be further comment coming out, but the Association recognises the right of individuals to their preferred titles. As an organisation, NZAGS is looking at diversity and rural sectors. In the next 12-24 months the Executive is looking at how it can support STRATA, a trainee led research collaboration. It is felt that the role of the Association will be more important in the next two years.

b. Executive Director, B. Evans

Report was tabled and taken as read. Bronwen Evans noted that in the past year Claire Nicoll retired and was replaced by Ray Collins. She acknowledged the hard work and flexibility of the team during the last two years of disruption due to the pandemic.

c. AoNZCIGS Chair, S. Bann

Report was tabled and taken as read. Simon Bann noted that the Board in General Surgery has been renamed Committee in General Surgery. Simon is stepping down after six years. Dave Moss becomes Chair of AoNZCIGS and Jeremy Rossaak becomes Chair of Training Sub-Committee.

d. Annual Financial Statements

Income for the Association comes from Trainees and Annual Conference. Finances are in good shape. No issues raised by the Executive. We have recently installed a new accounting system for Members (GECCO). Alex Popadich proposed that the Annual Financial Statements be accepted and ratified. Motion carried.

e. Re-appointment of auditors, Heath and Dent

Alex Popadich proposed that the Association reappoints Heath and Dent as its auditor. Motion carried.

f. Ratification of Annual Membership Fee Increase

With inflation rising above 7.5%, the Treasurer proposes raising the membership fee by 5% (\$25) from \$550 (incl GST) to \$575.00 (incl GST) or \$505.00 (Excl GST). This will avoid a huge jump in future years should inflation continue to rise. Motion carried.

g. Executive Membership

Thank you to Andrew Moot and Julian Speight who have completed 12 years on the Executive and both had terms as President. Also thank you to Gowan Creamer who is stepping down for personal reasons.

New Executive Members proposed are Deborah Wright and Roberto Sthory.
Ratified by members present.

Rowan French steps down and Vanessa Blair becomes President. Bevan Jenkins become Vice President.

h. Southern Cross Update

Vanessa Blair updated the meeting having had three years interaction with Southern Cross. There is no clear process for this relationship. One meeting was held with three sub specialties and it was noted there are issues with the affiliate provider relationship that need to be addressed. Meeting with them seems to be problematic. The organisation seems to cherry pick surgeons within private practice and this could be perceived as a conflict of interest. Colorectal and breast have been put back on the table but we suggest they come to us as an Association rather than by sub-speciality. We are looking for feedback from members. If you operate in a non-Southern Cross hospital there may be concerns as Southern Cross are suggesting waiving the 20% top up fee for surgery within a Southern Cross hospital. Members with concerns can speak with Vanessa or feedback to the Executive.

i. General Business

There were no items from the floor tabled at the meeting.

j. Next Meeting,

The next meeting will be in Nelson, 29 April 2023 (ASM 2023 conveners - Mark Stewart and Rebecca Shine)

k. Closure

Meeting closed at 1:21pm.