

ABN 24 065 463 274

Minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Australian Society for Microbiology held on Monday 7th July, Grand 4, Pullman Albert Park, Melbourne, 5.00 pm

### 1. Welcome

The President, Professor Paul Young welcomed all members present to the meeting and rang the Nancy Atkinson Bell to signify the opening of the AGM

#### 2. Apologies

None received

## 3. Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting

Acceptance of minutes as a true and correct record proposed Paul Young, seconded Jon Iredell, all in favour

# 4. Business Arising from the Minutes

Paul discussed business arising from the minutes of the last AGM (some items addressed as part of reports).

- FASM application review process now more stream-lined and being assessed more promptly
- One item raised in other business asked the ASM to consider contributing to the debate on the Government policy of vaccination conscientious objectors receiving the rebate and the impact on health policy. ASM did follow up and, after seeking input from members with an interest in this area, issued a joint press release with ASV, ASI and Sir Gus Nossal. The release gained the attention of the national press and was a positive example of increased ASM engagement with microbiology issues that impact the community.

### **5.1 Presidents Report**

Presented by Paul Young.

- PY addressed points of procedural inaccuracies raised prior to the AGM announcement in relation to the process of passing changes to the constitution. Recording of the precise changes to the current constitution need to be circulated. These will be made available on the website and put to the membership for consideration at an extraordinary meeting in the future.
- There has been an increase in Society activities with regards publicly presenting our views on matters of policy. Increasing our advocacy role and reclaiming the position as Australia's peak microbiology body. There is now a policy page as part of the new website (under publications tab).
- Science Meets Parliament was attended by Mike Manefield and Kat Holt as ASM representatives. This is a great opportunity for members to learn about lobbying and engagement with parliamentarians and the political process.
- Social media engagement has significantly increased with the appointment of Jack Wang as the Vice-President for Communications. The Society commends Jack for his enthusiasm and being extremely active in this role. Tweeting of this meeting

(#2014ASM) with contributions from invited speakers has been a highlight of the meeting.

- New awards have been established. The inaugural Lyn Gilbert Award to recognise
  major contributions in any area of diagnostic laboratory microbiology in Australia or
  internationally by ASM members was recently decided by the Executive and
  announced at this meeting as David Ellis.
- The Nancy Millis Student Mentoring program was officially launched at the Royal Society on Saturday July 5 at the beginning of this conference.
- A Clinical Travel Award for conference attendance has also been initiated.
- ASM has been short-listed for consideration to host the IUMS 2020 or 2023 meeting. Paul will be presenting the bid at this years IUMS at the end of July (update: the Australian bid came second out of 5 countries bidding).
- The new ASM website has been launched for this meeting and features include greater membership interactions/communications, regularly updated news page and enhance social media activities.
- The Working Party chaired by John Turnidge is in the process of being formed and will review the structures and operation of the Society. They will be reporting in February 2015.
- ASM focussed specialist meetings are being discussed as an additional activity to our annual scientific meeting. The first such meeting proposed will be in the diagnostics space with academic researchers, pathology scientists and clinicians as the target audience. There will be a review of the structure of the annual meeting. One approach discussed would be to have a single generic stream of hot topics in cross-disciplinary microbiology.

Question from the floor – What's the view on the two major spin off meetings currently, AVS and BacPath?

Discussion – BacPath were in discussions with ASM about the possible branding of its conference as an ASM meeting. AVS is already far along the path as a stand-alone Society however there is certainly scope for greater interactions with this sister Society. Need to be conscious of progressing this idea in cohesive manner without splintering the audience.

President's report proposed to be accepted by Paul Young, seconded Jon Iredell, all in favour.

# 6. Presentation of the Financial reports by the Vice-President, Corporate Affairs

Presented by Cheryl Power.

The audit process was successfully completed and the resulting financial statement has been posted on the ASM website. The new auditor had worked effectively with both the FAME group and the ASN Events financial officer. It should be noted that there are a few differences in the report as a result of changing the auditor. For example, all the conference income and expenditure is included.

The recent trend of a decline in membership appears to be slowing, however this view depends on the time of the year the numbers are compared. Current membership as at June 30 2014 is 2080. The Exec is undertaking many new initiatives along with Branch activities as a way of further embracing the microbiology community and will be following the outcomes closely.

<u>Income:</u> Membership fees resulted in income of \$248,786 for the year and conference profit at \$95,000 with the remaining from investments.

<u>Expenses</u>: Professional fees of \$104,000, office fees of \$37,876 and capitation distributions of \$42,787. The Executive is reviewing capitation allocation rules to ensure a best return on these funds is being achieved.

<u>Investments:</u> Combined investments of the Research Trust and the Society amount to over \$1.3 million, and include both shares and term deposits. Currently, Research Trust investment is 100% in shares and is valued at \$102,776

VP Corporate Affairs report proposed to be accepted by Paul Young, seconded by Charlene Kahler, all in favour.

# 7. Reports from the Vice-President Scientific Affairs on NSAC & Research Trust.

Presented by Charlene Kahler

Charlene thanked the committee of the 2014, 2015 and 2016 LOC, POC and Divisonal chairs for their contributions to the ASM.

It is noted that the Div Chairs for Perth in 2016 are the last ones whose roles will be solely for the organization of the scientific program of the annual scientific meeting. Future chairs will take carriage of the divisional activity for a whole year, oversight of the SIGs and progression of divisional matters. Please convey this back to Branches for future consideration.

Conference sponsorship was very popular this year with 6 meetings being supported at either \$2,500 or \$5,000 each.

Peter Traynor has overseen a very successful visiting speakers program with three speakers (Kathryn Bernard, Sheila Lukehart and Patrick McGovern) - thanks to Peter and all the state representatives who have hosted, or will be shortly hosting, speakers.

Research Trust Committee oversees the travel awards including Millis-Colwell to the US, this year awarded to Sean Pham, however none of the other awards received nominations. Burnet-Hayes to the UK is currently suspended as the British Society reviews the outcomes of the current structure. All State Branches could be promoting these awards more widely,

VP Scientific Affairs report proposed to be accepted by Paul Young, seconded by Mohammad Katouli, all in favour.

### 8. Office Bearers 2014-2015

Paul acknowledges and thanked Charlene Kahler for her contributions, long hours and dedication to her role as VP Scientific Affairs. She has served the Society extremely well and we now welcome Dena Lyras to the position.

Paul passes the carriage of the meeting to the incoming President, Jon Iredell

Jon Iredell as President, thanks Charlene Kahler for her hard work and successful advocacy on behalf of ASM and congratulates Paul on the success of his term as President, on his inspiring and unflappable leadership, on the teams many achievements and the new initiatives undertaken. He welcomes in the new VP, Scientific Affairs, Dena Lyras, and thanks Cheryl Power and Jack Wang for their continuing support.

- President Prof Jon Iredell
- o Immediate Past-President Elect Prof Paul Young
- o VP, Scientific Affairs A/Prof Dena Lyras
- o VP, Corporate Affairs Ms Cheryl Power
- o VP, Communications Dr Jack Wang

### 9. Determination of Annual Subscription Fees

The fees for the upcoming year remain as follows: 2014 - 2015 Financial Year 1st April 2014 - 31st March 2015

Student
Associate, SASM, MASM, FASM
Retired
Sustaining
\$950

This represented no change to fees from the previous two years and a vote of members was not required.

# 10. Appointment of the Auditor

Cheryl Power advised retaining the services of Eric Townsend and Co., for the ASM Investment and Research Trust Funds

Acceptance of audit proposal, proposed Paul Young, seconded Cheryl Power, all in favour

### 11. Other Business

A commendation to the ASM should be noted from the EduCon attendees for allowing them to attend the Sunday welcome function as part of their conference experience.

An item for future consideration of the ASM 2015 LOC is the offer for each Lab head attending to be bring a student for free. This idea met with universal approval.

Support was expressed for the proposal of a separate Diagnostics conference.

# 12. Closure of the meeting