

**Australian & New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine Physics SIG
Annual General Meeting held 1.30 PM on 25 April 2009 in room
Parkside 1B, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre.**

Minutes

1. Present/Apologies

Present: Ali Asad, Rosalie Babicheva, Daniel Badger, Leighton Barnden, Robert Barnett, Dale Bailey, Susan Barr, Paul Cardew, Peter Collins, Stefan Eberl, Nick Forwood, Roger Fulton, Matthew Griffiths, Bruce McBride, Doug Mackey, Steven Marsh, Graeme O'Keefe (Chair), Chithra Sathiakumar, Richard Smart, Seu Som, Jocelyn Towson, Kathy Willowson.

Apologies: Rochelle McCredie

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes be accepted. Carried.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

4. Correspondence

5. Finances

(a) The report of the treasurer, Chithra Sathiakumar, showed total income this financial year was \$1405, primarily from workshop registrations (23). There was no sponsorship this year. Total expenditure was \$2026.72, mostly on the workshop. The balance was \$9050.56

(b) The coming year is the first in which SIG moneys will be transferred to / withdrawn from a central fund controlled by the Society treasurer. Chithra tabled the SIG's annual budget submission to the Society treasurer for 2009-10. The total proposed expenditure was \$13,700. This has been approved by the society.

6. Reports

(i) Chairman - Graeme O'Keefe

The SIG workshop on *MonteCarlo Applications in Nuclear Medicine and Radiotherapy* was held at the Department of Physics, Sydney University on December 8, 2008. The SIG expresses thanks to Siemens who sponsored Michael Casey, the keynote speaker. The presentations are accessible on the ANZSNM website.

The physics SIG has completed the budgetary and structural changes imposed by the change of the ANZSNM to a company.

(ii) Technical Standards Committee (TSC) - Stefan Eberl

(a) *SNM lung phantom*. This phantom has been circulated to a wide range of departments and is currently in Queensland. Peter Collins reported that a better response from such an exercise requires more work to encourage physicians' involvement in image assessment.

(b) *Dose Calibrator survey*. The results of the dose calibrator survey conducted in 2008 have been collated and published.

(c) *PET accreditation*. The TSC "Requirements for PET Accreditation (Instrumentation & Radiation Safety)" accepted by the society in 2007, has been referenced in legislation under development by DOHA for access to an MBS rebate for 3 new PET indications.

(d) *PET phantoms* are still available through Stefan.

(e) *Terms of reference*. Re-examine to ensure compatibility with new ANZSNM constitution. **Action Stefan**

(f) *Membership* should be expanded to include non-physicists. **Action Stefan**

(g) *PET QC documentation*. 'How to do PET QC' documentation is required to specify and standardize PET QC procedures. **Action Stefan**

(h) *F-18 standard*. ANSTO are investigating development of this standard.

(i) *Software audit*. It was suggested a TSC subgroup be formed to (i) collect existing, and (ii) develop new test scans to audit clinical software and (iii) to develop web-tools to distribute them and permit entry of results. **Action Peter Collins, Robbie Barnett**

(j) *I-123 standard*. Richard Smart reported that ANSTO have developed a primary calibration procedure for an I-123 reference, but availability of a source for dose calibrator assessment/calibration awaits development of a secondary procedure, possibly in 2010.

(iii) Nuclear Medicine Physics ACPSEM Accreditation Panel - Stefan Eberl

(a) The duties of the panel are to (i) assess applicants for nuclear medicine physics accreditation and inclusion on the college register, (ii) evaluate overseas TEAP programs, (iii) assess nuclear medicine content in MSc physics of imaging subjects, (iv) maintain close links with the nuclear medicine specialty chairman.

(b) Nuclear Medicine physicists with 5 years experience have until 31 Dec 2010 to apply for accreditation under the conditions described in the TEAP Information Booklet. This path to accreditation will then be closed.

(c) The TEAP program for new entrants includes quite a strong research component. The quality of research is judged through publications and conference presentations. There is concern that registrars will have difficulty finding time for research. However, support was expressed from the floor for maintenance of the research requirements.

(d) Communication with the accreditation panel should now be via the ACPSEM office.

(iv) ACPSEM Liaison - Paul Cardew

(a) An ACPSEM workshop was held on Dec 8 2008 in Melbourne to review and plan for manpower in nuclear medicine and radiology (jointly called "imaging") physics. The workshop was chaired by Eva Bezak, the ACPSEM head of specialties, and was attended by medical physicists from all 3 specialties and members of state and commonwealth departments of health. In the next 5 years, 19 imaging physicists will retire and 40 new physicists will be required. Concern was expressed that the number of qualified physicists would fall so low that there would be insufficient to train the numbers required in 5 years time. The DOHA representative encouraged the college to make submissions (i) for assistance in developing an "imaging" syllabus that would accredit physicists who could perform at least basic duties in both nuclear medicine and radiology and advanced duties in one, and (ii) for funds for imaging physicist registrars.

(b) An application for \$165K has been submitted to DOHA's "QA and Safety" funding body for a coordinator and office infrastructure to run the TEAP for nuclear medicine and radiology as well as to determine the feasibility of training imaging physicists to support both disciplines.

(c) A second submission for funding for 40 imaging physics registrars over 5 years is being prepared.

(d) If we cannot train sufficient new imaging physicists we will have to look overseas for trained persons or start training with those who already have an MSc or have some training in radiotherapy.

(v) IDL Users - Leighton Barnden

Leighton commented that IDL development in different centres is still proceeding independently and that the community would benefit from closer liaison.

7. Nominations for Chair

Matthew Griffiths was nominated (Marissa Bartlett) and seconded (Graeme O'Keefe) and duly elected as the new chairman of the ANZSNM physics SIG. Graeme's 6 years of service was acknowledged by all.

8. Report on SIG workshop, *MonteCarlo Applications in Nuclear Medicine and Radiotherapy*, Sydney 2008. See Chairman's Report

9. Next Physics SIG Workshop

It was decided that December remains the best workshop time but that the topic and location must be decided earlier after a consensus is reached by e-mail discussion. **Action Matthew Griffiths**

10. Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Physicists

A further 3 experienced Nuclear Medicine Physicists were accredited this year by the ACPSEM. Five registrars are now enrolled in the Nuclear Medicine TEAP. Accredited physicists are encouraged to submit an application for inclusion on the ACPSEM register.

11. SIG Constitution / Mission Statement

(a) The newly-formed "ANZSNM Limited" has only one constitution. The old Physics SIG constitution now becomes Regulations for governance of the SIG. The draft regulations have been circulated. Peter Collins suggested minor changes. Unless further suggestions for change are received, the amended regulations will be adopted. **Action Peter Collins, Matthew Griffiths**

(b) Provision is made for inclusion of a Schedule A of the SIG regulations that can express SIG aims and objectives and specify programs to achieve them. Dale Bailey spoke to a document "Aims and Objectives of the Nuclear Medicine Physics SIG" prepared for comment by him and Graeme O'Keefe. In addition to describing the SIG's aims and activities, it proposes a formalized annual SIG program that

- holds 3 more meetings with CPD status: two in Sydney, open to interstate members, with 1-2 scientific presentations, and one in conjunction with the ACPSEM conference (EPSM) with an inter-specialty focus,
- procures funding for one physicist to attend an international meeting.

It suggests the distinction between the ANZSNM and ACPSEM physics SIGs be made on the basis of Scientific for the Society versus Professional (CPD, TEAP etc) for the College.

Dale further proposed SIG budget line items for

- working parties for specific scientific projects that may need to meet 1 or 2 times only,
- a physicist award.

E-mail comments will be sought with the view to including this (amended) material in Schedule A and, where necessary, extending the SIG's budget submissions. **Action Matthew Griffiths, Dale Bailey, Chithra Sathiakumar**

12. Meeting closed