



## Spine Society of Australia Executive Meeting

**Location:** Sofitel Hotel  
Brisbane

**Date:** 16 April 2009  
18:10

**Present:** William Sears, Owen  
Williamson, Kevin Singer, Peter  
McCombe, Ralph Stanford

**Apologies:** Graeme Brazenor, Roy Carey

### Agenda:

1. Present
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous meeting 16/04/2009. pp 1-5
4. Business carried over from previous meeting
  - 4.1 MSAC Cx disc arthroplasty application
  - 4.2 Submission to MSAC review pp 6-10
  - 4.3 Digital Imaging RACS Working Party
  - 4.4 Constitutional Reform
  - 4.5 SSA/AOA affiliation pp 11
  - 4.6 PFET
  - 4.7 Tenders for Christchurch 2010
  - 4.8 Proposal from AOA re AOA ASM Cairns 2009
  - 4.9 Directors and Officers insurance
5. New Business
  - 5.1 Registration fees for Executive members/presenters for FOSS p 12
  - 5.2 De Puy Fellowships pp 13-22
  - 5.3 Constitution of the new Executive
6. Correspondence
  - 6.1 None

Item	Comments	Required action	Person/s to do	Due by	Carried over
3.	<b>Previous Minutes accepted</b>	Proposer Seconder	Ralph Stanford William Sears	-	-
4.	<b>Business carried over from previous meeting</b>				
4.1	The Spine Society hosted a weekend ThinkTank with invited industry representatives (Medtronic, Zimmer, Synthes, Stryker, LifeHealthCare and De Puy) in Canberra with legal advisor Mr John Kelly present. Meeting had professional facilitation (Palm Consulting). Medical portion of MSAC proposal regarding cervical spine arthroplasty complete. Health economics portion needs to be completed. This will be done professionally as organized by industry. It was agreed that the SSA would retain absolute editorial rights as the submission to MSAC would be in its name.	None			No
4.2	See 4.1				
4.3	Peter McCombe and Graeme Brazenor continue to attend meetings of the RACS Digital Imaging Working Party (DIWP). College of Radiology has agreed to make scout views mandatory on digital radiology media. There remains some skepticism regarding the application of such a guideline.	None			No

4.4	Kevin Singer referred to the emailed documents containing the constitutional amendments. Discussion of these changes resulted in unanimous support for them. Legal advice from John Kelly indicates that SSA is secure in taking on an advocacy role regarding matters of expert knowledge.	Dissemination of proposed changes to membership for comment. Intention for vote at AGM in 2010.	Kevin Singer	Next few months	Yes
4.5	Peter McCombe reports continued positive discussion with the AOA executive and board regarding provision of secretariat support for the SSA. Cost estimations base on secretarial hours to be resolved.	Continued dialogue.	Peter McCombe	Ongoing	Yes
4.6	Peter McCombe and Graeme Brazenor attended a teleconference including Glen McCulloch (RACS), Michael Murphy (NSA), John Batten (AOA), John North (AOA) and Annie Gibbins (AOA). The NSA claim that neurosurgical training in spine surgery is complete. NSA stated in principle support for cooperative approach to post-RACS fellowship education and training, albeit pointedly specifying the AOA and not the SSA. NSA opposed to combined approach to RACS fellowship education and training.	Continued dialogue. Curriculum design.	Peter McCombe William Sears Ralph Stanford	Ongoing	Yes

4.7	Comments regarding Wayne Taylor: poor pre-meeting communication, previous issues with conference budgeting, has great expertise in running meetings on the ground, has wide reaching and considerable contacts. In severing ties with Wayne Taylor, some significant skills and resources could be lost. There are concerns regarding legal action in the event of dismissing Wayne Taylor. An executive member will need to function as overall coordinator to improve pre-meeting service by Wayne Taylor. Tender documents have been prepared by Graeme Brazenor, but it is uncertain if these have been distributed.	Set in motion tender process Manage Wayne Taylor by dialogue	Peter McCombe Graeme Brazenor Owen Williamson	Next few weeks	Yes
4.8	Not discussed				Yes
4.9	Not discussed				Yes

5.	<b>New business</b>				
5.1	Owen Williamson proposed that registration fees to the FOSS be waived for executive members and presenters. It was agreed that this be so.	None			No

5.2	<p>William Sears indicated that the SSA was acting as a simple conduit for industry funded bursaries to registrars pursuing overseas fellowships. Firstly, this seems incongruous and secondly there is confusion at present regarding the number of allocated bursaries from De Puy and who had received them.</p>	<p>Work through books to resolve number and allocation of De Puy bursaries.</p>	<p>William Sears</p>	<p>Next few weeks</p>	<p>Yes</p>
5.3	<p>(i) Peter McCombe and William Sears stated that executive work is now too great to be supported in a voluntary capacity. Time demands on the officers and their private administrative staff was now very great. Dr Sears estimated that his own staff put in about 100 to 150 hours per year for the SSA. The executive agreed that with expansion of Society activities support will be needed from a full time secretariat (see 4.5) and establishment of a new education and training committee within SSA.</p> <p>(ii) The following positions on the executive need to be filled at the forthcoming AGM:-  Site Committee Chairman for 2012  Chairman Scientific Committee  Chairman Membership Committee  Chairman Rules Committee</p> <p>It was decided that Kevin Singer would become a co-opted member of the executive in order to complete the constitutional review process.</p>	<p>(i) See 4.5. Propose education and training committee to membership.</p> <p>(ii) Approach Greg Malham to be Site Committee Chairman and Ian Farey (past President before last) to be nominating committee chairman in the absence of Roy Carey (immediate past President). Approach Clayton Adam and Paige Little to be on the Membership Committee.  Ralph Stanford offered to be Chairman Scientific Committee.  Owen Williamson offered to be Chairman Rules Committee.</p>	<p>William Sears and Kevin Singer to approach those proposed to executive positions.</p>	<p>Next 24 hours</p>	<p>No</p>

<p><b>5.4</b></p>	<p><b>DVDs of FOSS and EBM seminar.</b>  Additional agenda item brought up by Peter McCombe. DVDs of both the FOSS and the EBM Seminar will be produced. Appropriate distribution and charges for them were discussed. The EBM Seminar will be put in the public domain free of charge. The FOSS disc will be sold to registrants for \$25 ea. and non-registrants for \$75 ea.</p>	<p>Notify disc producers and distributors (Wayne Taylor?)</p>	<p>Peter McCombe</p>	<p>Next few weeks</p>	<p>No</p>
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<p><b>5.5</b></p>	<p>Kevin Singer put up the following applicants for membership:  ACTIVE members:  Patrick Chan, Ashish Diwan, Brian Fagan, Paul Hodges, Robert Kuru, Richard Parkinson, Michele Sterling,  ASSOCIATE member:  Steven Yang  SENIOR members:  Barrie Vernon-Roberts, Bill Turner, George Weisz</p> <p>Peter McCombe proposed that his guests at the meeting should be CORRESPONDING members:  Charles Fisher, Marcel Dvorak, Tom Oxland</p> <p>The committee supported these applicants. The committee discussed the application of Ashish Diwan as potentially problematic. He is an Indian qualified surgeon practising in Australia as an HIC recognised specialist but without RACS qualifications or AOA recognition. It was stressed that whilst he qualified as an active member on the strength of his research activities, he should be designated as being non-RACS.</p>	<p>None</p>			
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<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p>
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