



Spine Society Australia Executive Meeting

Location: Hilton Hotel, Adelaide

Date: Thursday 17th April, 2008

Present: Mssrs R.Carey (President), P.McCombe, W.Sears, O.Williamson, I.Farey, G.Brazenor (Secretary).

Apologies: K.Singer, P.Turner

Agenda:

- 1.0 Present:
- 2.0 Apologies:
- 3.0 Minutes of previous meeting 23/2/2008. **pp 2-8**
- 4.0 Business carried over from previous meeting:
 - 4.1 Website: more programming, or paid administrator? (4.1)
 - 1. Facility for reporting of implant failures, etc. **p9**
 - 2. Reorganisation of the membership list.
 - 3. History of Society, Mission Statement on Home page
 - 4.2 MSAC cervical disc arthroplasty decision: mechanism for review. (4.2) **p10**
 - 4.3 Radiology services: review last December? (4.3) **pp11-14**
 - 4.4 Neuro/ortho spinal surgery data survey. (4.4)
 - 4.5 Review of Committees/Subcommittees. (4.5) **p15**
 - 4.6 Board of PostFellowship Education & Training: what to do. (4.6) **p16**
 - 4.7 De Puy Fellowships. (4.7) **pp17-25**
 - 4.8 Annual Scientific Convention 2008. (4.8) **p26**
 - 4.9 Membership Committee.(4.6)
 - Review of Membership Applic'ns (Kevin Singer report) **p27**
 - Current membership applications **p28**
 - 4.10 AOA Annual Scientific Meeting participation. (4.10) **pp 29-33**
 - 4.11 Copyright Agency Limited. (4.11) **pp 34,35**
 - 4.12 Life/Honorary memberships for John O'Brien and H.V. Crock. (5.2) **pp 36-38**
- 5.0 New Business
 - 5.1 Treasurer's interim report.
 - 5.2 Newsletter
 - 5.3 New Year Honours
 - 5.4 Membership application **pp 39-57**
- Correspondence
 - 6.1 AOA spine education **pp 58,59**
 - 6.2 Letter from Federal Dept Health and Aging **pp 60-65**

Item	Comments	Required action	Person/s to do	Due by	CO
3.0	Previous Minutes: Acceptance moved OW, Seconded PMcC.				
4.0 Business Arising from Meeting 23/2/2008:					
4.1	<p>Website: PMcC reported that the programmer/engineer who set up the website is prepared to modify the programming and manage the website at an hourly rate. PMcC will arrange an introduction to GB. PMcC also reported that there is a new search facility on the site, and a new edit facility.</p> <p>It was agreed that an annual budget of \$10k would be reasonable for managing and upgrade of the site.</p> <p>It was also agreed that a manual for (administrative) website users must be written, and GB undertook to do this over the next two years.</p> <p>RC asked that lists of various types of members be obtainable on the site, and PMcC replied that this sort of request is easily fulfilled by the new search facility.</p> <p>Further discussion ensued on the fact that there are multiple member lists in use by various members of the executive, and PMcC+GB urged everyone that the <i>only bona fide</i> list is the <i>userlist.csv</i> on the website.</p> <p>RC also pointed out that the aesthetics and organization of the site were in urgent need of an upgrade. He also advocated that there be created a facility for members to report device failures and related adverse events, and moreover that the Society Mission Statement and a History of the Society be prominent on the Home page.</p>	Aesthetic and functional upgrade of website. Possible engagement of website manager.	PMcC, GB	On-going	Y

4.2	<p>MSAC cervical disc arthroplasty decision: Secretary reported that he, PMcC, WS and OW will have a teleconference with MSAC secretariat personnel at 2pm EST on May 16th, to explore the feasibility of review of this decision without having to make a new application. It was generally agreed that the role of Applicant would be inappropriate for the SSA, even if it had the requisite resources. It was suggested that the pertinent new evidence should perhaps be emailed to the MSAC secretariat well before the meeting. PMcC also raised the issue of kyphoplasty, but it was generally felt that the cervical disc arthroplasty should take precedence in the teleconference.</p>	GB, WS, OW and PMcC to correspond re evidence.	GB, WS, OW, PMcC	ASAP	Y
4.3	<p>Radiology Services: PMcC and OW have made a further submission on SSA's behalf to the inquiry by the Federal Government Department of Health and Ageing.</p>	Leave on agenda.			Y
4.4	<p>Neuro/Ortho Spinal Surgery Data Survey: RC, PMcC reported that there is no chance of any funding for this project by AOA.</p>	PMcC will approach H.I.C. to obtain a quotation for extracting MediCare figures, as a first step.	PMcC		Y
4.5	<p>Review of Committees and Subcommittees: RC to undertake a systematic review of the SSA Constitution, among general agreement by executive members that there is a pressing need for revision.</p>	Aim at submitting Constitutional changes at 2009 AGM.	RC		Y
4.6	<p>BPFET: Glenn McCulloch from Neurosurgical Society of Australasia will speak to this in the Second Business Meeting of the AGM.</p>				Y

<p>4.7</p>	<p>De Puy Fellowships: WS reported that financing these Fellowships by means of intermittent transfusions from De Puy has become an accounting nightmare, and discussion ensued as to ways to solve the problem.</p> <p>A new application from Dr Davor Saravanja was discussed and it was decided that Dr Saravanja fell within the definition of eligibility.</p> <p>GB suggested a wording change to the Conditions of Application, to add the condition: <i>“Applicants must declare in writing at the time of their application, all other sources of funding for their Fellowship Program.”</i></p> <p>This was approved by the executive.</p> <p>It was also agreed to modify the condition <i>“Applicant must be on an Australian Surgical Training Program (Orthopaedic or Neurosurgical)”</i> to: <i>“Applicant must be on, or have recently completed, an Australian Surgical Training Program in Orthopaedics or Neurosurgery, and not engaged in private practice in Australia.”</i></p>	<p>WS to revise accounting methods.</p> <p>GB, OW to examine Dr Saravanja’s application.</p> <p>GB to change wording and notify AOA.</p>	<p>GB, OW.</p> <p>GB</p>	<p>Now.</p> <p>Now</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>4.8</p>	<p>Annual Scientific Convention: PMcC reported a trial at this ASM of a low-resolution video recording of presentations (with signed authorities from presenters) to allow delegates (full registrants) to receive a CD with a video/audio record of presentations after the meeting. The executive thought this was worthy of trial, and noted that the trial would be at no cost to the Society.</p>		<p>PMcC</p>		<p>Y</p>

<p>4.9</p>	<p>Membership applications: KS as Chairman of the Membership Committee submitted a written report that five applicants appeared to fill the requirements for active membership: Professor Brian Freeman, Mr James Melrose, Mr Michael Redmond, Dr Clayton Thomas and Mr Yun-Hom Yau. Dr Markus Melloh was eligible for associate membership.</p> <p>There was further discussion about Dr Bruce Mitchell, but a majority of executive members felt that despite reservations by some executive members, he should be proposed for membership. Professor Singer also provided a written report on new members and membership categories, with two recommendations:</p> <p>(i) That the secretary provide to named referees detail from the Rules concerning the nature and expectations of new members as a guide to ensuring the adequacy of their endorsement.</p> <p>(ii) That the following text be added to the Membership Application coversheet: <i>“In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the Rules of the Society for the time being in force.”</i></p> <p>It was resolved to incorporate these recommendations in the forthcoming revision of the Constitution, with consideration given to grounds for expelling a member.</p> <p>It was also mentioned, <i>apropos</i> Constitutional revision, that it should be prohibited for members to quote membership of the SSA on their websites or letterhead.</p>	<p>GB</p> <p>GB</p> <p>RC, KS & PT</p>			<p>Y</p>
<p>4.10</p>	<p>AOA Annual Scientific Meeting participation: This will not go ahead</p>				<p>N</p>

4.11	<p>Copyright Agency Limited: GB notified that a cheque for \$2,347.86 has been received, being copyright fees from the use of the Scoliosis Detection pamphlet written by Professor Taylor and his subcommittee.</p> <p>Whereas previously it had been decided in the executive to give this money to Professor Taylor's committee, the secretary reported that Professor Taylor had declined the offer, provided the SSA would pay for the occasional mailout by his group.</p>	\$2,347.86 to be banked into general revenue of the Society.	WS		N
4.12	<p>Honorary Membership for Mr H.V.Crock and Life Membership for Mr John O'Brien: The President spoke to these awards, in the absence of a special Nominating Committee being formed.</p>				N
<p>5.0 New Business:</p>					

5.1	<p>Treasurer's interim report: Financial figures to be presented in the Second Business Meeting of the AGM on 20th April were tabled by the Treasurer.</p> <p>It was generally thought that the subscription should remain unchanged, but WS was very keen on granting full registrants at the next year's ASM as much financial relief as possible.</p> <p>The matter of Directors & Officers insurance was raised and it was revealed that ours is provided by the AOA. There was general agreement that we should take out our own cover.</p> <p>The matter of conference organizer was again debated and it was resolved to make certain representations to Wayne Taylor in the meeting gazetted for 0900 next day. Chief among these was the requirement for auditable accounting of conference receipts and expenses, and the need for a proper contract. It was further resolved that the selection process for conference organizer should be put to tender for 2010, if we find it cannot be done for 2009. Several executive members thought that it should definitely be done for 2009.</p>	<p>PMcC to speak to Ian Burgess of the AOA to ascertain what cover our directors and officers require.</p> <p>Executive to meet W.Taylor next day.</p>	PMcC		Y
5.2	<p>Newsletter: RC offered to continue to produce the newsletter from executive minutes, for posting on the website, and/or emailing to members.</p>		RC		N
5.3	<p>New Year's Honours: Michael Fearnside has been awarded an AM.</p>	RC to include in next newsletter.	RC		N
5.4	<p>Membership application: The application by Bruce Mitchell was again discussed and agreement reached to recommend his application along with the others in the AGM.</p>				N

6.0 Correspondence: incorporated in each item of the foregoing, plus:					
6.1	<p>AOA spine education: RC and PMcC confirmed that the AOA still wishes the SSA to provide educational services to AOA members, and is willing to provide funds for cost defrayment.</p> <p>Peter McCombe confirmed that Brisbane 2009 will be a 2.5 day meeting, running all day Friday and Saturday, and Sunday morning. There is also the possibility of the SSA running a one-day meeting/symposium on the Thursday, in response to the AOA's request for an update on spinal surgery for AOA members. The meeting would also be open to neurosurgeons, basic scientists and paramedics, all of whom would pay a day registration. The faculty would be cross-disciplinary, showcasing one of the fundamental strengths of the SSA. There is a possibility of some funding from AOA. The curriculum would be of critical importance, and could only be developed after specification of the target group of attendees.</p>				Y
		A curriculum committee will be convened.	PMcC		
6.2	<p>Letter from Federal Government Department of Health and Aging: This was noted, with some satisfaction that someone in Federal Government had finally recognized that our Society is a resource that they could utilize.</p>				N