



## Spine Society of Australia Executive Meeting

**Location:** Sydney Airport Qantas Club

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2009  
Noon-2pm

**Present:** P.McCombe (President),  
W.Sears (Treasurer),  
G.Brazenor (Secretary),  
O.Williamson, R.Stanford,  
M.Johnson.

**Apologies:** Kevin Singer, Roy Carey, Greg  
Malham.

### Agenda:

1. Present
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous meeting 16/04/2009. **pp 1-7**
4. Business carried over from previous meeting
  - 4.1 MSAC Cx disc arthroplasty application
  - 4.2 Digital Imaging RACS Working Party
  - 4.3 Constitutional Reform
  - 4.4 SSA/AOA affiliation **pp 8-15**
  - 4.5 PFET **pp 16**
  - 4.6 Tenders for Christchurch 2010 **pp 17- 63**
  - 4.7 Directors and Officers insurance
  - 4.8 De Puy Fellowships **pp 64-74**
  - 4.9 Constitution of the new Executive
  - 4.10 FOSS and EBM seminar DVDs **p 75**
5. New Business
  - 5.1 Submission for Health Technology Assessment Review **pp 76 - 91**
  - 5.2 Rewardsforresearch.com **pp 92-103**
  - 5.3 Janssen-Cilag Pty Ltd **pp 104-105**
  - 5.4 Spine Patient Society requesting affiliation **p106**
6. Correspondence
  - 6.1 Incorporated in foregoing items

Item	Comments	Required action	Person/s to do	Due by	Carried over
3.	<b>Previous Minutes accepted</b>	Proposer: P.McCombe Secunder: R.Stanford Passed unanimously.	-	-	-
4.	<b>Business carried over from previous meeting</b>				
4.1	<b>MSAC cervical disc arthroplasty application:</b> This is now being completed by industry experts, particularly in the matter of cost effectiveness. Submission possibly 1-3 months away yet.	None	-		Yes
4.2	<b>RACS Digital Imaging Working Party (DIWP):</b> PMcC and GB reported that this committee has almost finished its task. Guidelines will be published by the working party.	None	-		Yes
4.3	<b>Constitutional reform:</b> Deferred as KS is overseas.	None			Yes
4.4	<b>SSA/AOA affiliation:</b> The letter from Ian Burgess (CEO of the AOA) dated 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2009 was discussed and GB expressed concern that the estimates of hours required in both bookkeeping and secretarial duties have been radically underestimated by the AOA. Even so, it was felt to be an urgent matter to remove the bookkeeping from the shoulders of WS and his long-suffering staff, hence <b>it was resolved</b> to transfer this activity to the AOA secretariat ASAP. So far as secretarial duties <b>it was resolved</b> to ask the AOA secretariat to provide a secretary to take	WS to arrange transfer of bookkeeping duties to the AOA secretariat ASAP.  PMcC to liaise with Ian Burgess.	WS  PMcC	ASAP	Yes

	<p>minutes at all future SSA Executive meetings, and to develop the AOA-provided secretarial role further thereafter.</p> <p>With respect to the Subspecialty Presidents' Committee (chaired by Roy Carey), his letter of 20/4/2009 was noted, as well as the Terms of Reference for the Committee. An email had also been received from RC giving assurance that subspecialty Presidents who are not orthopaedic surgeons will nevertheless be granted the status of affiliate membership of the AOA whilst on the Committee.</p>				
4.5	<p><b>PostFellowship Education and Training:</b> The attitude of the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia was again discussed, and it was decided to forge ahead with creation of a PostFellowship syllabus/Fellowship program, in cooperation with the AOA, leaving the door open also for the NSA if they wish to participate.</p>	Continuing development of syllabus and Fellowship program.	PMcC, WS, RS and others.	Ongoing	Yes
4.6	<p><b>Tenders for the 2010 ASM in Christchurch:</b> The proposals from <i>conferences and events, DC Conferences</i> and <i>AST Management</i> were discussed, and the first two were found particularly impressive. It was finally decide to go with DC Conferences because they are Australian (<i>conferences and events being New Zealand based</i>) and, if 2010 Christchurch is well-run, DCC might thereafter be retained for further ASMs. OW's testimonial was also encouraging, speaking from his experience with Pain Society conferences arranged by Dianna Crebbin. <b>It was resolved</b> to retain DC Conferences services for 2010 Christchurch, but to invite Taylored Images to tender for 2011 Melbourne.</p>	<p>WS to finalise his requests of Wayne Taylor re 2009 ASM ASAP, including asking him for the email addresses of attendees at FOSS and Brisbane 2009 ASM to facilitate distribution of the Evidence-Based Medicine DVD.</p> <p>PMcC to draft dismissal letter to Wayne Taylor, and John Kelly to be asked to give legal opinion prior to sending letter to WT.</p>	<p>WS</p> <p>PMcC</p>	ASAP	Yes
4.7	<p><b>Directors and Officers' Insurance:</b> WS not sure of the status of our application.</p>	WS to check.	WS		Yes

4.8	<p><b>De Puy Fellowships:</b>  Application by Dr Perry Turner, who is no longer an RACS trainee was discussed, and <b>it was agreed</b> that exception should <u>not</u> be made from the clearly-stated conditions of the Fellowship as they currently stand. The application from Dr Yi Yuen Wang was also discussed, along with the matter of proposed Fellowships with dubious spinal focus. WS suggested that there should be a strictly defined time window in which applications must be made for the following calendar year, and that the allocations of the Fellowships should be competitive. These conditions were unanimously supported, and <b>it was resolved</b> that WS should approach Brett Spence to canvass De Puy's attitude to the proposed changes.</p>	WS to approach Brett Spence re the proposed changes in the process for awarding De Puy Spinal Fellowships.	WS		Yes
4.9	<p><b>Constitution of the new Executive:</b>  This is currently:  Peter McCombe, President.  William Sears, Treasurer.  Graeme Brazenor, Secretary and Vice President.  Ralph Stanford, Scientific Program/Editorial Secretary.  Owen Williamson, Rules Committee Chairman.  Michael Johnson, Chairman Membership Committee.  Roy Carey, Past President.  Kevin Singer, co-opted as Chairman, Constitutional Reform Subcommittee.  Gregory Malham, Site Committee Chairman.</p>	-	-	-	No

4.10	<p><b>Fundamentals of Spinal Surgery (FOSS) and Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) DVDs:</b>          PMcC showed both, to universal acclaim. <b>It was resolved</b> that the FOS DVD should be offered to course registrants at c.\$25, and to non-registrants at c.\$75 per copy. The EBM DVD was felt to be an important resource, particularly in the matter of the pending HTA Review (<i>vide infra</i> 5.1). The EBM Seminar will be put in the public domain free of charge.</p>	<p>PMcC to arrange distribution through the AOA, who have offered this service.          WS to obtain email addresses of FOSS course registrants from Taylored Images.</p>	<p>PMcC  WS</p>		Yes
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5.	<b>New business</b>				
5.1	<p><b>Submission for Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Review:</b>          PMcC was complimented on the excellent submission which he has prepared for the HTA Review. OW also complimented re his paper on Registry-based adaptive research designs. PMcC and WS reported on the Focus Group meeting they attended on behalf of the SSA in Sydney, and remarked on the poor facilitation and the paucity of doctors. GB to attend in Melbourne 29<sup>th</sup> June.</p>	<p>PMcC to ponder sending the EBM DVD to someone associated with the HTA Review.</p>	PMcC		Yes
5.2 5.3	<p><b>Approach by RewardsforResearch.com and Janssen-Cilag P/L:</b>          GB reported approaches by these commercial trial organizers for listing of their trials on our website, and discussion ensued as to liabilities which might be incurred by Spine Society if we were seen to be supporting these and other trials. <b>It was resolved</b> not to list trials on the website.</p>	<p>GB to inform RewardsforResearch.com and Janssen-Cilag.</p>	GB		No

5.4	<p><b>Spine Patient Society requesting permission to post a link to our website:</b> This was approved, although GB will point out that there are no patient services on our website.</p>	GB to email.	GB		No
5.5	<p><b>Applications to MSAC for item numbers for selected spinal procedures:</b> PMcC raised the matter of operations such as laminoplasty, vertebral osteotomy, kyphoplasty and spinal navigation, which have no CMBS item numbers.</p> <p>Discussion centred around whether now is the right time to prepare MSAC submissions for these and other operations, and the consensus was that we should await the results of the HTA Review.</p>	-	-		No
5.6	<p><b>4th Asia Pacific Spine Society Meeting:</b> WS reported a request by Professor Yoon of Korea (the founding chair of the AP CSS) to hold the 4th annual meeting in Sydney, in November 2010. WS and Ian Farey have had preliminary meetings with Dianna Crebbin of DC Conferences on the topic of developing a critical pathway, preliminary agenda and a budget. WS asked for in-principle support from the SSA with the possibility of co-hosting the meeting and undertook to prepare a detailed budget for presentation to the Executive. He will also confirm with Prof Yoon that if the SSA underwrites the meeting, it will be entitled to any profit generated. There was general agreement that WS could proceed in this way.</p>	WS to continue to liaise with Ian Farey and Dianna Crebbin, and Prof. Yoon.	WS		Yes

6.	<p><b>Correspondence:</b> Incorporated in foregoing items.</p>
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