



MINUTES OF THE 47th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PHYSIOLOGY SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, HOSTED JOINTLY BY THE APSSA, PSSA, SAALAS, SASBCP, SANS AND TOXSA SOCIETIES (CoBNeST), SPIER WINE ESTATE, 8 OCTOBER 2018

Members present: MF Essop, B Sishi, H Strijdom, P du Toit, B Abrahams, Y Govender, E Chivandi, K Erlwanger, M du Toit, A Krygsman, C Smith, K Myburgh, SS du Plessis, A Khathi, E Ndebia, A Namugowa, M van Staden, S Bhoora, NE Ramoshaba, A Blessing, YY Stofile, ST Ndzamela, K Khan, A Lochner, B Huisamen, M Gondwe, HT Musarurwa, CR Rusike, M Pipedi-Tshekiso, E Marais, S Nkadimeng, T Nyakundya, A Genis, AM Sosibo, Dr Ngubane (35 members).

1. **Welcome by Faadiel Essop (MFE)**
2. **Moment of silence observed for Prof Johan Koeslag**
3. **Apologies received: Prof. Gill Dealtry and Prof William Daniels (WD)**
4. **Minutes of the previous meeting** (DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA, 28th SEPTEMBER, 5.00 PM, 2017). The AGM accepted the minutes.
5. **Matters arising** elsewhere on the Agenda

5.1. Prof Daniels added a point onto the agenda regarding latest SAVC regulations

6. **Presidents report**

- 6.1. **PSSA and SANS collaboration**

MFE provided feedback on the first joint collaborative symposium held at the Medical School, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town. The title of the symposium was "CONNECTING THE HEART AND THE BRAIN" where

the science behind this connection was introduced and explored by leading experts in the field. The symposium was well attended by postgraduate students and academics.

6.2. African Association of Physiological Sciences (AAPS)

MFE emphasized how closely PSSA now working with AAPS and indicated that this meeting is taking place between 2-4 December 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda.

6.3. PSSA website and Equipment database

M du Toit (PSSA student representative) indicated that the website needed updating with regards to including past PSSA oral and poster student competition winners to be included on the website. In addition, she contacted various institutions to contribute to the equipment database, however very few responded to call.

6.4. Honouring Prof Koeslag

In honour of Prof Koeslag, KHM provided a brief history of Prof's teaching, research and his contribution to the PSSA. An award for ***Human Integrative Endocrinology***, in addition to the other PSSA awards should be initiated. This award would for a postgraduate student conducting research in this particular field based on the following but not limited to:

- Abstract submission with a short motivation for the award (suitability of abstract will be determined by the PSSA Review committee)
- Inclusion and exclusion criteria (to be determined)
- Elements of integration and aspects of physiology measurements
- Recruitment of own samples for study
- Must have conducted the majority of the methodology

SSdP indicated that he appreciated the gesture and a decision regarding the award should be made at the AGM.

A unanimous decision was taken at the AGM to institute the award

6.5. Arranging PSSA 2018 and feedback from LOC

Prof. Carine Smith provided feedback on the selection process based on the 46-48 abstracts submitted for the Wyndham student competition. The selection of participants for this competition were based on the following:

- Merit
- Inclusivity of various institutions
- Diversity in terms of models and sub-disciplines across the board
- Limitation of student entries from one supervisor
- Exclusion of abstracts containing 10 authors or more

Based on the above criteria, 24 abstracts were accepted for the competition and those that did not fit the criteria, were included instead in the poster competition. Furthermore, Erna Marais indicated that going forward for the posters, the authors should indicate their rank (e.g.: student, postdoc, supervisor)

7. SAVC regulations

WD suggested that due to the latest SAVC regulations and authorization, various institutions would find it very difficult to implement as this would require all students working with animals to obtain accreditation. BH indicated that the PSSA draft a document to indicate our standing and/or issues on these regulations. This document should then be circulated to the PSSA community for their opinion on this matter. Hans Strijdom endorsed the drafting of this document and upon finalizing, to be forwarded to the SAVC.

8. Secretary/Treasurer's report

BS provided feedback on the financials. Audits have been initiated. The current ABSA account has a positive balance of R 66 745.94. Expenditure was allocated to the website design, PSSA prizes and travel support for students, as well as the auditors. BS also provided feedback on the SATRIX investment account (R 224 298.45) and the profit made from the PSSA 2017 (UP) conference (R42 089.07). In addition, the PSSA partners (Axiology, BiocomAfrica and Whitehead Scientific) would sponsor all the PSSA prizes for the 2018 congress (CoBNeST). Membership fees have not been changed, i.e. R100 for students and R400 for academic/technical staff. However, a Postdoc fee of R200 was newly introduced accepted by members. Membership number of 123 delegates was noted. The AGM accepted the financial report.

9. PSSA conferences 2019-2021

- 2019 – Walter Sisulu University
- 2020 – WITS will consider hosting jointly with the AAPS. To be confirm at the 2019 AGM
- 2021 – Botswana indicated interest however this will need to be confirmed at another AGM

10. PSSA council election

A single vacancy was indicated for member of council. Nominations: A. Khathi (UKZN), A. Stander (UP) and E. Ndebia (WSU). E. Ndebia was elected, seconded and welcomed by the president.

There being no further business, the AGM was adjourned.