

**MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PHYSIOLOGY  
SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, HOSTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF  
PHYSIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO (MEDUNSA CAMPUS), AT  
ROODEVALLEI ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Members present: H Strijdom, K Erlwanger, J Chamunorwa, A Nadar, M Channa, G Dealtry, S Eagleton, T Nyakudya, S Ramesar, B Huisamen, A Lochner, S du Plessis, C Westcott, Muzi Maseko, B Nkeh-Chungag, J Makinta, L Lebelo, D Loubser, J Lopes, Mokgadi Maseko, N Molebatsi, HO Nnadi, L Böhmer, F Essop, W Smith, L Uys, L Hay, C Musabayane, AM Engelbrecht, S Roux, B Loos (32 members: quorum).

1. Welcome by Kennedy Erlwanger (KE)
2. Apologies received: K Myburgh, G Norton, A Woodiwiss, D Gray, A Schutte, E Swanepoel, P Govender, S Makaula, E Chivandi, H Laburn, P Gathiram, P Mabeta.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting at the University of Stellenbosch (11 September 2012): Leon Hay (LH) proposed that the minutes be accepted, and the motion was seconded. The AGM accepted the minutes.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

- African Initiative: LH reported that getting speakers from Africa to attend remained a challenge (visa issues, expensive flights etc.). Despite this, a guest speaker from Malawi attended, as well as delegates from Nigeria and Zambia. Although a funding application was lodged with the NRF, no feedback was received, therefore costs of the invited speaker were covered by the local organising committee (LOC) funds. A discussion followed in which it was mentioned that the University of Botswana had a large physiology department and should be considered as part of the PSSA. LH reported that the LOC had attempted on a few occasions to make contact with Botswana without success. Faadiel Essop (FE) said that a proper database of African physiology departments should be developed. Cephas Musabayane (CM) mentioned that University of Namibia should also be considered in future. KE reported that a database is being developed as a result of a meeting held for African delegates at the recent International Union of Physiology Societies meeting in Birmingham. The decision taken at the previous AGM to avail R20,000 from PSSA funds to cover travel and subsistence costs for an invited speaker from the SADC region has been re-confirmed, but Hans Strijdom (HS: treasurer) stated that this should be re-assessed at each AGM.
- Physiology Quizz: No reports received

- SA National Committee of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (SANC-IUPS) and the meeting for African delegates at the IUPS meeting in Birmingham: Siyanda Makaula (SM) had indicated that he would submit a report, but it was not received timeously. At this point, Anna-Mart Engelbrecht (AME) requested that the role of the SANC-IUPS vis-à-vis the PSSA be clarified. KE explained that SANC-IUPS is an NRF-initiative to secure South African participation at the IUPS. The SANC-IUPS is currently chaired by Dr Makaula and has 8 other members drawn from academia including the PSSA president (ex officio) and 2 capacity development members (currently: Ben Loos (BL) and Peace Mabeta (PM)). FE said that the SANC-IUPS does not necessarily speak on behalf of the PSSA, which could be a problem. AME asked why the PSSA President is not the PSSA's representative at the IUPS. A discussion followed on this matter. KE stated that the PSSA can become an independent member of the IUPS regardless of the role of the SANC-IUPS. The IUPS membership fees were regarded as a hurdle in the past, therefore the NRF offered to pay the fee with the SANC-IUPS then serving as representatives from South Africa. KE also reported that the current IUPS membership fee for independent national/regional Physiology Societies is US\$800.00. A further discussion followed, upon which KE suggested that the AGM vote on the matter by a show of hands. All the AGM delegates were in favour of the PSSA becoming a member of the IUPS with one abstention and none against. Therefore, the AGM decided that the PSSA will officially apply for IUPS membership in 2014.
- PSSA website: Wayne Smith (WS) requested whether Physiology Departments could “buy” links to information such as the job advertisements on the PSSA website. There were no objections, however, it was decided that requests for such links should be submitted to and regulated by the PSSA council.
- AAPS: KE and FE reported. FE said that he had attended the AAPS congress in Egypt in 2012 and was elected a member of the AAPS council. FE also mentioned that the AAPS has a journal (Journal of AAPS). The next AAPS congress will be in Nigeria in 2016. FE stated that he experienced the meeting in Egypt as positive, and felt that now is the time for the PSSA to join. An invited guest to the AGM, Saartjie Roux (SR) was asked to comment in her capacity as secretary/treasurer of the AAPS. She agreed with FE that there was a great deal of enthusiasm in the AAPS. A discussion followed with members expressing concerns and others being in favour of joining the AAPS. FE said the PSSA should become part of AAPS and help develop AAPS structures. It was also noted that joining both the IUPS and AAPS is not mutually exclusive. A vote on the matter was called. All were in favour of the PSSA joining the AAPS, with the exception of two members who abstained. Trevor Nyakudya (TN) suggested the PSSA put forward a candidate to be represented at the AAPS. The AGM decided that FE will remain our

representative on the AAPS council, together with possibly the newly elected PSSA president.

- PSSA Award for Excellence: KE announced that the Council had deliberated over a nominee and had approved a member of the PSSA for this award, and that the name would be announced at the Gala Dinner.

4. Financial report: HS presented the audited financial statements to the AGM. HS reported that the finances were healthy and that the cash in hand has maintained its growth of the last years. HS also reported that the original persons with power of attorney for the SANLAM Money Market investment should be replaced by new persons. At the moment, Kathy Myburgh, Anna-Mart Engelbrecht and De Wet Strauss have power of attorney for the Sanlam investment, none of whom are on Council anymore. Transfer to current members of Council should be initiated by the newly elected Council in 2014. The AGM accepted the audited financial statements.

5. Newsletter: KE asked whether there were any volunteers to take over the editorship of the PSSA newsletter. There were none.

6. IUPS: Has been discussed under previous points.

7. Future Conferences:

- 2014: UKZN. Dr Mahendra Channa was elected Chair of the LOC by the UKZN delegation. Approximate dates: Same week next year, but will be confirmed.
- 2015: University of the Witwatersrand
- 2016: University of Cape Town
- 2017: North-West University (to be confirmed)

8. Conference feedback: Prof Leon Hay. Matters related to the challenges of involving delegates from other African countries were discussed earlier in the meeting. LH also reported that the LOC purposefully changed the format of the Johnny van der Walt poster session this year by changing it into a formal session. The AGM welcomed this initiative. Furthermore, LH cautioned that the Wyndham entrants are becoming more and more, and that this results in several challenges regarding fitting all the speakers into the programme.

...proposed that an online discussion be held about the eligibility criteria for Wyndham entrants specifically vis a vis the cut off age and the part-time vs fulltime status in terms of their postgraduate registration status.

9. Young scientist award recipient for 2013 was Ms Margot Flint from Stellenbosch University. She attended the IUPS congress in Birmingham in July 2013.

10. Council Elections: KE and HS announced that they will stand down at the end of their terms of President and Secretary respectively and did not wish to stand for a second term. Eliton Chivandi and John Lopes both agreed to continue serving on

Council. It was agreed that voting for vacated positions will be cast by a show of hands. Dr Saramarie Eagleton and Prof Saartjie Roux were elected as general council members. Prof Faadiel Essop was elected as President for 2014-2016 and Dr Ben Loos was elected secretary/treasurer for 2014-2016.

There being no further business the AGM was ended.