



**MINUTES OF THE 44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PHYSIOLOGY SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, HOSTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, AT THE RIVERSIDE CLUB HOTEL, CAPE TOWN, 29th SEPTEMBER, 5.00 PM, 2016**

Members present: MF Essop, B Loos, M Pipedi-Tshlaso, Peet du Toit, E Ojuka, A Millen, PM Garcia-Roves, M Matshipi, E Umapathy, B Umapathy, KH Myburgh, D Rae, M Mashao, B Sishi, T Nell, AM Engelbrecht, G Dealtry, V Thaver, M Manjopodi, M Mogashoa, T Nyakudya, W Daniels, S Du Plessis, W Smith, V Russel, C Tata, O Aremu, M Du Toit, B Abrahams, A Lochner, B Huisamen, L Mokotedi, M Maseko, E Chivandi, J Chamuworwa

(35 members: quorum).

**1. Welcome by Faadiel Essop (MFE)**

**2. Apologies received: D Dietrich, K Erlwanger, A Joubert**

**3. Confirmation of the Agenda**

The agenda was confirmed. KHM raised the question about how many students will be allowed to enter the Wyndham competition, which was added to the agenda.

**4. Minutes of the previous meeting** (Parys, 8 September 2015). Feedback on the database was suggested as well as the peer review panel, both to be revisited. The AGM accepted the minutes.

**5. Matters arising** not elsewhere on the Agenda. No further points were raised.

**6. Presidents report**

**6.1. Vision, statistics, membership – feedback (MFE)**

MFE presented a report, providing feedback on the activities that took place throughout the year as well as the past 3 years. The key aspects that were indicated in this plan included: enhancing the benefits of membership, travel awards, to improve the website (phase I completed, phase II in progress). It is envisaged to establish a comprehensive database of SA/PSSA physiologists, as well as an online registration system. The registration should inform statistics. Links to Africa have been strengthened. More African colleagues have been joining the PSSA. 3 liaison officers have been set up with Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia. Eminent peer review group (Prof A Lochner, W Daniels and A Schutte) has been established for awards, assessments of CV's etc. A website committee was established to update website and newsletter details and articles. The financial base was aimed to be strengthened and to establish the PSSA conference as the meeting of choice, with diversity in the disciplines and institutions. A 2<sup>nd</sup> strategic council meeting was held in May 2016, to strengthen continuity and building vision.

A Lochner provided feedback, indicating that the PSSA is 'alive and well' with a 'firm basis for the future'. E Ojuka indicated words of thanks for the PSSA support with the mitochondrial meeting. MFE indicated other PSSA support, such as the SASCAR and Muscle symposium. 2 companies out of 4 that supported the PSSA website are likely to not renew the annual support. These items will be negotiated with the companies as going forward. MFE indicated that this financial support funded the website developments for phase I. MFE shared, that efforts are made at the AAPS meeting in Sept 2016, held in Nigeria, to further strengthen the PSSA/AAPS relationship. To place the bid for a 2020 hosting was supported. It was indicated that the IUPS 1-6<sup>th</sup> Aug 2017, Brazil, should be attended strategically, to further position the PSSA internationally. The past 4 years Wyndham winners may enter with motivation letters for being selected for the attendance of this meeting.

## **7. Secretary/Treasurer's report**

BL provided feedback on the financials. Audits have been initiated. Current ABSA account has a positive balance of R 74 486. Expenditure was allocated to the newsletter, website design, prizes and travel support. BL provided feedback on the SANLAM investment account (R 165 000), where funds have been transferred to a medium risk investment portfolio. The vision is to grow this account by R 50 000 per annum. Membership fees have not been changed (R 100 and R 400) for students and academic staff. A new membership record of 172 delegates was noted for the year 2016. S Du Plessis raised concerns about the disconnection between PSSA membership fees and membership and to achieve discounts for the local conference. Group membership discounts were discussed as future considerations as well as an annual deadline in March, to be eligible for the conference registration discount. This way forward was strongly supported, and a trial for the year was

recommended. No further comments were made. The AGM accepted the financial report.

Others: The PSSA quiz for 2017 has been brought to attention by K Elwanger, for awareness. The concern of growing Wyndham competitors has been noticed (K Myburgh). E Ojuka indicated that participation was encouraged, as PSSA needs to encourage students. AM Engelbrecht suggested that only PhD students may be considered for the Wyndham competition, MSc and Hons may compete in other awards available. Concern was raised that focus may be too much on presentation style as opposed to science quality. It was suggested that institutions may participate stronger in selecting and putting forward their students for the Wyndham competition. Capacity of approximately 30 students was indicated as potential guidelines, to be able to accommodate students. Parallel sessions were raised as concern, to create divide between competing and non-competing students. In the end the PSSA 2017 congress organizers will reflect on these points together with inputs on council and determine what will be most feasible to implement at the next annual conference.

## **8. Arranging PSSA 2016 and feedback LOC 2016**

E Ojuka provided feedback. Student registration fees were kept lowest. A sponsorship category system was implemented. It was helpful to be in close communication with the PSSA council throughout the planning. Sponsors need to be contacted early, i.e. 2016 for the 2017 meeting. The assistance of the conference management team was stressed as well as expert help. A Millen (Witwatersrand University) was thanked for support with developing expertise.

W Daniels suggested that the PSSA put forward a mechanism to assess the PSSA customer, as to indicate expenditure and purchasing power of the PSSA collectively. This should be used as formative approach to then approach companies and sponsors.

## **9. PSSA council election**

Vacancies were indicated for the president, secretary and 2 council members. Nominations: MF Essop (SU), W Daniels (Witwaterstrand) were nominated as president. It was suggested that the secretary should be from the same institution. Dr Maseko and Dr Sishi were nominated for secretary. Prof Essop and Dr Sishi, Stellenbosch University, were elected, seconded and welcomed as new president (MF Essop) and secretary (B Sishi), respectively, of the PSSA. Prof S Du Plessis (Stellenbosch University) and Gill Dealtry (NMMU) were nominated and accepted as new council members. Mari du Toit was appointed as the new student representative

to the council – a first in PSSA history. Prof. Willie Daniels and Dr. Aletta Millen (both from Wits) remained as council members for a second year.

MFE also thanked outgoing council members – Prof Ojuka and Mary Pipedi - for their excellent service to the council and PSSA.

#### **10. PSSA conferences 2017-2019**

Pretoria University has been indicated and confirmed as host for the 2017 PSSA meeting. Walter Sisulu University (WSU) and the University of the Western Cape (UWC) may consider the 2018 PSSA meeting, while the University of the Free State will consider acting as host during 2019.

There being no further business the AGM was ended.