

Minutes of the Annual General meeting of the South African Society of Haematology

Held at the CSIR International Convention Centre, Pretoria

19 September 2014 at 12h30

Welcome:

The president welcomed all attendees.

Apologies:

Dr LA Du Pisani (Treasurer), Dr G. Davison (Secretary), Dr A. McDonald, Dr J. Thomson, Dr F Bassa, Dr M, Munster

Present:

Prof A. Abayomi (President), Dr T Gerdener, Dr A. Koller, Dr J. Opie (President Elsc), Dr D. Brittain, Dr M. Rasesemola, Prof V. Moodley, Dr A. Pooe, Dr J. Alant, Dr A. Dlova, Dr R. van der Linde, Prof J. Mahlangu

Additions to agenda:

None

Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting were circulated and approved.

President's report:

The president's report was presented and the following issues were highlighted.

1. New Executive Committee established in October 2013.
2. The importance of local centre training representatives was highlighted. Current representatives include Dr E. Beltchev (US), Dr L. Ntabeni (UP), Dr S. Moodley (KZN). Dr Ania Koller (UCT) was welcomed. Representatives for Wits, Bloemfontein and Medunsa are needed and awaited.
3. Aim for new Exco: To re-launch SASH as a viable organization for all haematology professionals (haematologists, scientists, technologists and allied professional staff and students)
Achievements towards this goal:
 - i) Establishment of a new logo
 - ii) Establishment of a modern, professional and user-friendly website www.sash.org.za

- iii) Updating the membership list and establishment of fee structure. 41 paid up members. Aim for 200 paid up members.
 - iv) Development of draft guidelines to local organizing committees for future SASH congresses. Awaiting feedback from the expert committee to finalise these. Reduced registration fee for paid up members also proposed. Once approved these will be emailed to membership and posted on the website
 - v) Facilitation of scholarships and travel grants
 - Indian Ocean Pacific Rim Haematology Congress Perth Oct 2014 (awarded to one technologist M. Lesedi)
 - WBMT congress in Cape Town Nov 2014 (two travel grants of R5000 each offered)
 - Eurasian Society of Haematology Congress Turkey 2014
 Further details of these are available on the website
4. Ongoing goals:
- i) Establishment of SASH with SARS as a not for profit or public benefit organization. In process
 - ii) Facilitating the formation of working groups to develop guidelines. SAMJ will not publish guidelines unless approved by SASH
 - ITP guidelines. Sponsored by AMGEN. It was confirmed that there will be no involvement by sponsoring company in the development of guidelines (potential conflict of interest had been carefully considered by EXCO). Discussion regarding adopting ASH/EHA guidelines which may not be easily translated to the South African setting.
 - Myeloma Immunophenotyping and MRD guidelines. Sponsored by Janssen. SASH to be involved in the nomination of the working group and will send a representative to the meeting Oct 2014 (Dr Du Pisani).
 - iii) Update of the constitution. Proposals for amendments have been circulated
 - iv) Seek industry sponsorship for website
 - v) To organise a bi-annual SA lymphoma workgroup meeting under the auspices of SASH. JM: working group still has to meet. Next meeting will be in 2015. Hope to revitalize research studies of lymphoma in SA.
 - vi) To obtain a discount for SASH members for
 - International Journal of Laboratory Haematology
 - Clinical Cytometry B
 - vii) Volunteers for a newsletter are needed.

A meeting attended by Clinical Haematologists was held 2 months ago in JHB and strategies and goals at a national level were discussed. The SASH president encouraged this group and other existing and/or potential daughter groups to communicate with and have a relationship with SASH.

Financial report:

Dr Opie presented a summary of the financial report prepared by the treasurer. The detailed report is available and can be emailed if requested. Those present at the meeting agreed to the treasurer's suggestion of securing a proportion of the balance into an interest bearing account, since currently the lump sum is losing value versus inflation.

New matters:

Proposals for amendments to the SASH constitution have been circulated via email and replies are awaited. It was suggested that more time is needed (until 2015 SASH congress) to finalise the updates as SASH is in the process of gaining more members. Current membership will run until end 2015 and renewals from early 2016. Formal voting could not take place due to time constraints

Closing:

The meeting was adjourned at 13h30. The next meeting is planned for the 2015 SASH congress.

Jessica Opie
SASH President Elect

2 October 2014