

SOUTH AFRICAN GLAUCOMA SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY,
25TH MAY 2019 ZIMBALI COASTAL RESORT

Present:

1. Dr Bill Nortje
2. Dr Ellen Ancker
3. Dr Kapil Moodley
4. Dr Steve Cook
5. Dr Marissa Willemse
6. Dr Sue Williams
7. Dr Philip Phatudi
8. Dr Daemon McClunan
9. Dr Nombuso Mathe
10. Dr Nicky Welsh
11. Dr Marelize Conradie
12. Dr Richard Faul
13. Dr Agonia Chopamba-Kamba
14. Dr Sanushka Moodley
15. Dr Jeanine Dreyer
16. Dr David Steven
17. Dr Precious Phatudi
18. Dr Larry Malin
19. Prof Grant McLaren
20. Dr Sandika Baboolal
21. Dr Vojin Djordjevic
22. Dr Mahommed Motala
23. Dr Jan Talma
24. Dr Anthony Zaborowski
25. Dr Tebogo Monageng

Minutes:

1. Welcome:

Dr Nortje welcomed members attending meeting.

2. President to confirm that a quorum is present:

Dr Nortje & Dr Cook confirm there is a quorum present

3. Apologies:

Prof Nagib du Toit

Dr Petrus Gous

Dr Andrew Boliter

4. Minutes AGM Meeting held on the 26th May 2018 @ Spier:

Dr Nortje advises that not all details of every matter raised at a meeting requires to be minuted, the resolutions of a meeting are to be minuted, the debate preceded it are to be summarized. Prof McLaren questioned why the names of the people elected for Exco and the tallies of the votes was not minuted. All in agreement that the minutes are to stay as is and that it is kinder to the candidates for the tallies not to be minuted/ announced.

No amendments were made, this was by accepted by Dr Ellen Ancker and was seconded by Dr Marissa Willemse

5. Matters arising from the minutes:

No matters arising

6. President's Report:

Dr Nortje advised that the presidents report had been previously emailed to all members

- **New Constitution and new legal entity:** Our political scene and legal obligations continue to change and our old Section 21 not for profit company was no longer a manageable entity and this had to change. Later on, we will vote to amend this by dissolving the 21 company and set up a Voluntary Organisation in a different tax entity. Elsabe Klinck has been our legal advisor in this matter. The Exco has spent time reviewing and modifying in conjunction with Klinck details to the constitution
- **Future Congresses:** The planning and management of each congress is the major activity of the Exco, and we have established a routine and system using Lauren from Dipity as our management company. Basically, the meeting alternate yearly between Spier in Cape Town & Zimbali in Durban. We have experimented with other venues and will always get a member wanting to try a new venue, but experience has shown us that using the same venues streamlines our meetings allowing us to focus on the academic content rather than being distracted by re-inventing the wheel for each new venue.
2020 is World Ophthalmology Congress and no meeting is to be held. At this point I wish to note that there will also be no AGM that year and we need to pass a special resolution stating that.
2021 is already in the planning stage and we tentatively have Ike Ahmed & Maria Papadopoulos speaking and that will be at Zimbali
- **Call for Papers from local speakers:** Every year this is an issue. Few local speakers wish to talk or have been able to produce work they feel can be presented and every year we get a last minute “ I know the closing date is gone but

can you squeeze me in” and as we have so few local people and we wish to encourage local papers we always do but it makes the planning problematical.

- **YOM (Young Ophthalmologists Meeting):** Sue Williams and Nicky Welsh have made this a highlight of our congress for young training doctors and each year we get enthusiastic report backs from attendees who have benefitted from this program.
- **Pre-Congress Workshops:** Marissa Willemse has been organizing these for the last 3 years now and they have also become an important feature of the meeting and I expect this will grow in the future. Any suggestions for subjects to be covered in the future will be appreciated
- **Refresher Course:** I would like to see a Refresher Course just as they have in anesthesiology congresses where key local speakers do a one-day update/refresher for all those wishing to update their knowledge. This would be a recap and update of the current “best practice” for glaucoma.
- **Registrar Talks and Posters:** These sessions run by Sue Williams continue to be a highlight and key part of our congress. We have had difficulties with company sponsorships as legally binding new rules limit their participation in these activities and we have had to be more inventive to allow things to continue. The experience gained by participating adds value to every candidate and each participant can add this to their CV. The winners get the added benefit of a paid congress as the prize.
- **Travel Fellowships:** To date we have had over 12 applicants and sponsored 5 Ophthalmologists to travel and spend time observing and making contact with leading glaucoma units overseas. The program is one of our key expenditures from monies generated by the congress. Currently R50,000 per travel scholarship is made available to candidates
- **Website:** Nagib du Toit and Lauren Ferreira of Dipity have established a good website which delivers most of the information SAGS has to offer. Amongst other items the following information is made available:
 - Glaucoma Medication Algorithm*
 - SAGS view on Generics*
 - OCT use in Glaucoma policy statement*
 - Glaucoma Surgery Policy statement*
 - Hyphaema Protocol & Flow Diagram*
 - Optometry treating Patients statement*
 - Gonio newsletters*
 - OMG big data*
- **Glaucoma Surgery Algorithm** To my knowledge this has not been done in any other country in the world for SURGERY. This project has taken us 18 months to produce with the generous assistance of academic technical staff from Allergan to produce this. It will be submitted for publication soon and the aim is to state the position of SAGS on the use of different surgical approaches to Glaucoma. This will primarily assist both medical health planners particularly the NHI and Medical Health Funders to understand and plan future glaucoma health care and funding. Like our Medication Guideline it will require updating on an as required basis.

- **Glaucoma medication Algorithm** This continues to be used as a reference primarily for medical aids when planning funding. It is also used as a reference source when medical aids refuse to pay certain medications.
- **Advanced Glaucoma Training Programs:** In 2018 Paul Foster asked if we could assist in sourcing trainees to work in UK to become senior glaucoma specialists. Steve Cook liaised with him to set up a recruitment program that encourages consultants wishing to specialize in glaucoma to work and train in London. Nombuso Mathe is our first successful candidate and will take up a position later this year for a 1-2-year consultant paid training position. This we hope will produce strong ties with London and I hope will in future become a key feature channel for advanced training of South Africans in glaucoma.
- **Screen for Life:** This program initiated and run by Steve Cook has been endorsed by SAGS who is an Exco member. Glaucoma screening by itself is not cost effective but in conjunction with other ocular conditions is a valuable addition.
- **NHI Response:** SAGS added its opinion to calls for comments on this critical issue
- **Discovery and non-payment of devices:** SAGS Exco members have delivered several talks and discussions directly and indirectly with Discovery
- **World Glaucoma Week:** The annual campaign to increase awareness
- **African Glaucoma Consortium:** Steve Cook has been making contact with this group as we aim to connect and work with other groups working in Africa. Philip Phatudi represented South Africa in Addis Ababa early this year.
- **World Glaucoma:** Sue Williams, Kapil Moodley and Philip Phatudi all represented SAGS at the World Glaucoma Congress in Melbourne Australia in March
- **Proposed changes to Exco:** Currently Dr Nortje is serving his 2-year term as President which will end May 2020. Normally the Vice President will take over the position. The Exco has decided to alter this for the next term of office. Dr Sue Williams has been elected the President by the Exco according to the constitution and Dr Willemse will remain as Vice President.

7. Treasurers Report:

Dr Ancker ran through the year's treasurers report summary:

- Capital Reserves: R2 014 596
- Income: R1 669 494
- Expenses: R1 173 756

Dr Ancker advised on the restructure of R800 000 of SAGS investments as follows:

- R 200 000 Sygnia Money Market at .68% per month
- R600 000 Sygnia Investment with 22% domestic bonds, 30% domestic equities and 22% foreign bonds

8. New Company & Constitution:

- Dr Nortje advised that the old and the new constitution has been emailed to all members but in effect its taking the same structure in the old constitution and put it in a new model version with more definitions.
- Dr Nortje opened it to the floor for any issues or concerns
- Dr Cook proposed that the constitution be accepted and work with it and see if any changes are needed in the future
- All present were in favor to accept the new constitution
- Dr Nortje passed a resolution that there will be no SAGS congress or AGM, all in agreement

9. Special Resolution for No AGM in 2020:

- Dr Nortje passed a resolution that there will be no SAGS congress or AGM, all in agreement

10. Election of New Auditors:

- Dr Nortje advised that we have a new auditing company, all in agreement

11. General:

- Dr Talma congratulated Dr Nortje and thanked him for all he has done for SAGS

Dr Nortje thanked everyone

Dr Nortje closed the meeting