



**AUSTRALASIAN TRAUMA SOCIETY
13TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
14:45 AT HALL B, ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Chairpersons: Andrew Pearce and Andrea Delprado

1. Present: Sharon Johnson, Erica Caldwell, Bronte Douglas, Melissa Dixon, Russell Gruen, Mark Fitzgerald, Rangı Dansey, Li Hsee, Kerry Gunn, Danny Cass, Ian Civil, Debra Wood, Lesley Dunstall, Bernadette Mitchell, Helen Jowett, Amanda Holgate, Maxine Burrell, Trish McDougall, Annette Holian, Louise Niggemeyer, Scott D'Amours, Grant Christey, Jacqui Smith.

2. Apologies: Tony Joseph, Chris Allsopp, Les Lambert.

3. Minutes from the previous meeting – 24 October 2008
Accepted by Ian Civil (IC) and seconded by Deb Wood.

4. Business arising from previous minutes

Andrea Delprado (AD) commented that there was a question last year regarding the accounts being separated into general and conference reports. This has been done for the year end 2009 and AD is satisfied that there are no issues in terms of the financial management of ATS.

5. Executive reports

5.1 President's report - Andrew Pearce (AP)

AP advised that it had been a privilege and a pleasure to be President of ATS for the past two years.

ATS is still great value for money is remains one of the cheapest societies to join.

AP advised that he attended the Flinders Medical Forum on 29 July 2009. Kevin Rudd and Nicola Roxon attended the event. AP enquired whether the collection of national data was something that was being considered however they indicated that this was not on their radar at the moment. They did advise that a lot of funding is being put towards prevention. AP pointed out that the ATS has the ability to raise these issues and have a voice.

AP encouraged all members to get one colleague or friend to join the ATS, which would take membership numbers to well over 500.

AP advised that he will still be involved in the ATS and will be commencing the Media Liaison role shortly.

5.2 Treasurer's report – Andrea Delprado

AD thanked AP for his commitment and input over the past two years.

Trish McDougall and AD have been sharing the role of Treasurer; however AD has voluntarily undertaken the majority of the work involved. These are challenging times given the global recession and there has been a significant reduction in trade partners and sponsors. The ATS will have to undertake a review on how the association is managed financially.

AD reported that the 2009 conference was run with a great scientific program however there was a loss of \$6,000.00 (NZ). Conference expenditure was not managed through the ATS general accounts, this was managed by WORKZ4U, the conference organiser. ATS did however pay for the ITIM cocktail party. The shortfall for the 2009 accounts will be reported in the 2010 accounts as the invoice was paid after 30 June 2009.

There was a loss of \$25,000.00 this year. \$20,000.00 was pulled from the Investment Account to cover any shortfall. An additional \$20,000.00 will need to be transferred from the Investment Account to the General Account once the term deposit matures.

AD advised that the subscriptions (Injury Online) cost \$66.00 per person, which only leaves \$22.00 per person to run the association.

ATS funds have been spent on upgrading the website, including adding an 'Ask the Specialists' section for trauma-related queries. AD suggested that one executive member be responsible for reviewing these queries and distributing them to the most appropriate person. To date AP, IC and AD have been dealing with all enquiries.

AD suggested adding a list of major trauma centres to the website including a primary contact point for each. The National Network list should also be added.

There were no scholarships offered last financial year however this is one of the benefits of membership and this will need to be revisited during 2009/2010.

AD commented that the ATS will need to review its leveraging with regard to the conference.

The end of year figures are \$18,500.00 in the operating account, \$2-3,000.00 in the conference account and \$50,000.00 in the investment account.

AD would also like to recommend that ATS change auditor due to the level of satisfaction with the quality of work provided by Russell R Farr & Associates, specifically the inclusion of the New Zealand conference figures in the 2009 end of year account.

Apart from the membership fee increase, the membership base needs to be increased. ATS are looking into getting some promotional banners made and have recently had some DL membership brochures printed. AD requested that members take some of the brochures back to their place of employment.

The 2009 financial reports were accepted by Ian Civil and seconded by Scott D'Amours.

5.3 Secretaries report – Jacqui Smith (JS)

JS advised that there are currently 225 members on the ATS database with 67 of those being unpaid. Membership income for 2009/2010 currently stands at

\$14,345.00. The 'Members Only' section of the website is still under development and will be available shortly. The trial newsletter option on the website has also been a great success.

6. Subcommittee reports

6.1 Registry – Les Lambert/Rangi Dansey/Cliff Pollard

Les Lambert is standing down from his position. Erica Caldwell advised that she attended the recent Registry meeting where the 2008 report was handed out on disk. Russell Gruen will be the new Chairman.

6.2 Research – Mark Fitzgerald (MF)/Thomas Kossman

MF congratulated AP on his two years as President of ATS. MF commented that now that Russell Gruen has taken over the Chairman position now would be the best time to merge the Research and Registry committees.

6.3 Programme – Tony Joseph/Ian Civil

IC advised that they are looking to have a 2010 meeting with the Research Institute. The 2011 meeting will be held at the Gold Coast, and the committee are hopeful that this event will be independently successful. IIST are also looking for a combined meeting and our Canadian colleagues are very keen to continue the 4 year tradition.

6.4 Publication – Ian Civil/Erica Caldwell

The newsletter is regularly distributed by IC. Injury is the 4th ranked journal in emergency medicine, and is ranked 44/150 in surgical journals worldwide.

7. Special Business

7.1 Past President to undertake Media Liaison Office role (17(3))

AP advised that this position came about after a call from John Crozier regarding NSW alcohol advertising. It was noted that there is no process for ATS to distribute media releases quickly. AP opened the item for discussion.

AD suggested that 17(3) be amended after 'involve the' to include the words 'immediate past-president'.

A member of the audience asked whether the media role can be delegated to another member in the immediate past-president's absence.

AD commented that the plan is to firstly speak to the executive regarding media issues and to then encourage more people to be involved.

AP added that at the national executive level policy will be put into place, including a Media Policy Procedure.

Proposed by Ian Civil. Seconded by Erica Caldwell.

All parties present at the meeting indicated their support for the inclusion of 17(3) in the ATS Rules. Motion carried.

7.2 Membership increase (9.2)

AP reiterated that the need to increase the membership fees was to ensure that that scholarship remains available to members, especially those in Allied Health and Nursing, as well as maintaining the database and the Injury Online subscription. AP opened the item for discussion.

No questions were asked of the executive.

Proposed by Andrea Delprado. Seconded by Trish McDougall.

All parties present at the meeting indicated their support for the amendment to 9.2 in the ATS Rules. Motion carried.

7.3 New Research & Registry Committee – membership and terms of reference (24(8)a)

No discussion was required.

Proposed by Erica Caldwell. Seconded by Mark Fitzgerald.

All parties present at the meeting indicated their support for the amendment to 24(8)(a) in the ATS Rules. Motion carried.

AD added that there were 15 expressions of interest received for the merged committee. Those who submitted an EOI will form the new committee.

8. Election of Office Bearers

AP thanked the current committee for their contribution to the ATS. Nine nominations were received (Trish McDougall, Sharon Johnson, Melissa Dixon, Dr Paul Middleton, Ian Civil, Dr Tony Joseph, Rangi Dansey, Andrea Delprado and Dr Andrew Pearce), for the 14 available positions and nominations were requested from the floor. Erica Caldwell, Russell Gruen, Maxine Burrell, Helen Jowett and Deb Woods were nominated and accepted.

Following a discussion with AD, it was agreed that the new committee structure would be as follows:

Vice President – Ian Civil

Secretary – Sharon Johnson

Treasurer – Trish McDougall

Registry/Research – Russell Gruen, Maxine Burrell, Rangi Dansey

Programme – Tony Joseph, Melissa Dixon, Deb Wood and Helen Jowett

Publications – Erica Caldwell/Ian Civil

Ask The Experts – A/Prof. Paul Middleton

AP announced AD as incoming President of ATS. AP will be the Media Liaison Officer.

9. Presentations

Neither Les Lambert nor William Griggs were present to accept their certificates. These will be presented at a later date.

10. New Business

AD put forward a motion to change auditors for the 2009/2010 financial year end. Seconded by Erica Caldwell.

All parties present at the meeting indicated their support for the motion to changed auditors for the next financial year end. Motion carried.

11. Next meeting

The next ATS AGM will be scheduled in November 2010 in Melbourne.

12. Meeting closed

AD thanked the attendees for participating and closed the meeting at 3:38pm.