



17th ASSCR AGM
Tuesday 12 November 2024
3:00-3:45PM AEST
Meeting– Minutes

Present: Megan Munsie (MM), Anai Gonzalez Cordero (AGC), Katie Ayers (KA), Lincon Stamp (LC), Cameron McKnight (CM), Michael Lovelace (ML), Jennifer Hollands (JH), Isabelle de Luzy (IL), Helen Abud, Christine Wells, Osvaldo Contreras, Alice Pebay, Julia Young, Ana Antonic-Baker, Ritika Saxena, Nathan Palpant, Jose Polo, Adrienne Sullivan, Luke Isbel, Jiao Jiao Li, Holly Voges, Kevin Law, Michelle O’Hara-Wright, Deborah Aubin, Suzanne Butcher, Melanie Eckersley-Maslin, Sanuri Liyanage, Jose Agustin Cota-Coronado, Reem ALHulais, Ngaire Elwood, Osvaldo Contreras, Christopher Bye, Linxuan JIANG, Simon Maksour, Rhiannon Werder, Grace Lidgerwood, Pallavi Gupta, Marlene Hao, Gerard Tarulli, Eva Chan, Kazuki Shigematsu, Bryony Nayagam, Cedric Bardy, Lucas Ferreira, Oliver Anderson, Ruobing Zhang, Peter Houweling, Khanh Ha Do, Nghia Nguyen, Mauricio Castro, Jessica Vanslambrouck, Hannah Leeson, Atefeh Namipashaki, Jordan Clarke

Apologies: Dusty Flanagan (DF), Bernie Tuch, Amy Hulme

Item	Discussion	Actions
Welcome and apologies (Megan Munsie, MM)	As per above	
Acceptance of the Minutes from the ASSCR 2023 AGM (Appendix 1)	The Annual Report, which includes the Minutes from the 2023 AGM, was distributed by email to Members on 07/11/24.	MM moves motion that the Minutes be accepted. Christine Wells seconds it. Motion to approve Minutes passed unanimously.
ASSCR 2023 requests and improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM thanked all members for attendance. • MM also highlighted the feedback received during the AGM 2023 which were incorporated into the 2024 Annual meeting. This included keeping posters up for the duration of the meeting, more time for questions and others. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASSCR’s profit share from the 2023 Annual meeting (\$31,883.88). <p>Total Meeting Income: \$ 224,625.48 Total Meeting Expenses: \$ 190,769.89 Net Trading Position (surplus): \$ 34,961.66 GST (paid on behalf by ICMS): \$ 3,077.78</p> <p>ASSCR Profit Share: \$ 31,883.88</p> <p>2023-2024 ASSCR EMCR satellite meetings: In 2024, the ASSCR supported three EMCR symposia held in three states (NSW 26th June, QLD 23rd August, VIC 25th July).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total income (sponsorship and sales) \$ 9,802.35 • Total costs (venue, catering, prizes) \$ 13,020.23 • Cost to ASSCR \$ 3,217.88 <p>Major 2023-2024 Income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ 20,476.43 2022 Annual scientific meeting profit • \$ 21,694.35 Membership • \$ 3,950.03 Interest • \$ 40,086.35 Sponsorship and trade (including \$30,000 from NSCFA) <p>Major 2023-2024 Expenditures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ 8,976.02 - administration & ASN management consultancy • \$ 1,440.00 - society subscriptions • \$ 13,542.30 - venues & catering • \$ 36,113.91 - Prizes & Awards (inclusive of \$ 30,000 in funds from NSCFA) 	
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	<p>No major concerns for the society moving forward in the current financial year and we want new ideas to support new activities. We will continue to support ECR symposiums and awards, but everyone is encouraged to contribute with ideas.</p>	
<p>5. Resolution to affirm ASSCR annual membership fees (KA)</p> <p>Special Resolution #1 Membership model</p> <p>Special resolution #2 Vice president qualification requirements</p>	<p>Under the Rules of Association, the ASSCR must formally review its membership fee structure at each AGM. The membership fees will not change.</p> <p>The Resolution is as follows: "Be it RESOLVED that the meeting affirms the existing annual ASSCR membership fee structure (including GST) for 2023/2024: 1 year: Full membership \$120. Students \$60. Associate \$120. 2 year: Full membership \$210. Students \$105. Associate \$210. 3 year: Full membership \$290. Students \$145. Associate \$290.</p> <p>AGC introduced special resolutions. Currently ASSCR memberships are all renewed on 1st August To maximise membership benefits <i>we move to amend Section 12 - Change annual subscription to an <u>anniversary model</u>.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewals will be individualistic occurring on the date you joined • There is no cost implication to the society for this change <p>According to our Charter, the Vice-President automatically becomes President after their 2 year term. Members voted to <i>Move to amend Section 49 - Vice-Presidents must have previously served on the ASSCR committee, chaired a subcommittee, or have experience on another similar committee in an executive role.</i></p> <p>Alice Pebay asked if we could provide some more background on resolution #2. MM explained that the idea came from ISSCR where something similar was put in place and that even though we are a small society that such an important position in the committee requires more experience, but MM also reminded that we worded the resolution in order</p>	<p>Members present accepted the resolution.</p> <p>Members present voted and accepted the resolutions.</p>



	<p>to allow previous ASSCR Committee members and others with appropriate experience i.e. ‘or have experience on another similar committee in an executive role.’.</p> <p>Results: Special Resolution #1 passed with 95% of votes Special Resolution #2 passed with 90% of votes</p>	
<p>6. Reports from Subcommittee chairs and other ASSCR activities</p>	<p>Professional Development and Junior Investigators (CM): CM mentioned the fantastic year for EMCRs with three EMCR Symposia running in NSW, VIC and QLD and a total of 208 registrants and 68 presentations, which was great opportunity to build resumes. Attracted almost \$10K in sponsorship and thus these meetings only costed \$3K to the Society. The top prize was registration to the Annual meeting so it’s a nice way to help ECRs to attend the annual meeting. 30% of participants became new ASSCR members because if you are a member you can attend for free.</p> <p>We had 18 National Stem Cell conversations this year, which showcase outstanding research conducted by our members with national and international speakers and happen on the first Wednesday of every Monday. These online events have flourished and run from March to November. Email list grew from 305 to 415 this year.</p> <p>We have also run for the first time an Image Competition to showcase our EMCR community’s skill & creativity and populate our new website with images that were taken by our members. Over 50 submissions: including 21 images, slogans, & actionable website suggestions. The winner was Vivienne Kaiser, from CMR, NSW who won a prize of \$100. The committee supports the continuation of this competition on an annual basis and it’s a small cost to the society giving huge amount of publicity to ECRs.</p> <p>The new chosen slogan for the Society is: Connect- Communicate-Collaborate: Fostering world-leading stem cell science and its now featured on the website. CM thanked all other 30 EMCRs in the sub-committee who helped tremendously</p>	

	<p>throughout the year.</p> <p>Membership/Communications (DF-represented by LS): ASN Events continues to serve as a contractor to process ASSCR Membership payments. Membership numbers are down this year to 217 members (down from 267). LS announced the launch of the new ASSCR website a one stop shop for all Society related activities including membership renewal. It will also include highlights of members of the Society. LS encouraged members to send stories that people want to highlight and welcomed any feedback. LS thanked Dusty Flanagan, and also noted the help of Cameron McKnight, Eva Chan, & Maciej Daniszewski together with ASSCR Exec in achieving the launch of the new site.</p> <p>Sponsorship and Industry (ML): ML mentioned that we obtained \$100K in sponsorship in the 2023 Annual meeting in Sydney. The EMCR events also raise money from sponsors and were very successful. ML thanked the sponsors that continue to support every year and new ones that support the Society. This year we raised \$80K in sponsorship. A big thanks to the sponsors who donated prizes for the Exhibition passport which has been a success.</p> <p>Conference and Awards (IZ): Izzy introduced herself and started by recognising the importance of awards provided by the Society. Of note is the ECRs Rising Star award for and excellence in stem cell research, leadership, and contributions to our stem cell community. We received six applications assessed by five reviewers. The 2024 Rising Star Awardees were Holly Vogues (MCRI) and Simon Maksour (University of Wollongong) who both spoke at the conference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel award schemes. We had 112 abstracts submitted with 22 travel awards selected. IL thanked all the 17 reviewers for their support and highlighted the NSCFA support for this award. We announced the new Catalyst award which is a 	
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	<p>revision of the 2022 the Game Changer Award. This Award recognises an <i>outstanding research team</i> from the ASSCR community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Exceptional impact at a national or international level in the last five years – Focused on impact and innovation <p>Information about the award is now up on the website.</p> <p>Policy, ethics and translation (JH): JH has happy to announce our continued engagement with ISCT-ANZ society. This is the second year of mutual focus sessions at the Societies’ annual conferences. ISCT ANZ invited speaker Prof. Simon Barry, Chief Medical Scientist, Carina Biotech presented his work at the ASSCR meeting. ASSCR invited speakers in the ISCT meeting in NZ were Professor Bronwen Connor & A/Prof Ngaire Elwood.</p> <p>We also continue our engagement with Science & Technology Australia (STA) with ASSCR members also being entitled to STA membership. ASSCR representative, Oliver Anderson, PhD student at Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute (ARMI) participated in Science & Technology Australia’s 2024 Science meets Parliament and wrote an amazing blog that is now highlighted on the website.</p> <p>Conversation continues with STA new CEO, Ryan Winn, & the policy team to advocate for education & skills development to support the growth of the cell & gene therapy workforce including GMP manufacturing skills, & translation & commercialization of Australian-developed IP. JH encourages participation from all members.</p> <p>MM thanked the 2023/4 ASSCR Committee.</p>	
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<p>7. Input, ideas from members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jose Polo asked if we could have a five year membership. MM said we can certainly investigate this option. • Simon Mansour, mentioned that small awards such as the image competition are very important for ECRs and he suggested the implementation of a ‘Publication of the Year or Month Award’ that it does not need to have huge financial implications to the Society, but are very important to boost CVs and fellowship applications. • IL recognised that we can increase support and we are aware of the need to increase ECR support. IL introduced a new idea of ‘Outstanding Stem Cell Conversation Award’ to recognise the most outstanding talk of the year from the National Stem Cell Conversation (NSCC) series. This would be voted by participants of the NSCC series. Support for the award to be requested from NSCFA, which is expected launch in 2025. Nathan Palpant also said we can expand wards and presentation opportunities to Honours students as these students are also very talented. • Alice Pebay mentioned that it’s great to see the Society in such a healthy situation financially and asked if it’s time for the society to spend a bit more. IL said that we are planning on expanding activities and these proposals and ideas will be taken into consideration. KA also reminded everyone that we did pay for the new website that will come out of the next financial report. • MM mentioned that we had difficulties receiving the profits of the last two conferences, so we were a bit cautious, but we do want to give back to the Society. Once again, we encourage members to send ideas on how we should spend our profits. • CM announced results for two special resolutions: #1 passed with 95% and #2 passed with 90%. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM also mention the aim of ASSCR to increase international engagement with Asia. MM has been exploring opportunities in Asia and hope that next year we can share some first steps towards this. 	
<p>8. Hand-Over to new Committee</p>	<p>MM thanked all committee members and welcome to the new members. Lincon Stamp is the new President. MM explained that we will have an interim Secretary for the year which will then be open for vote in October 2025. MM encouraged members interested in contacting the Committee.</p> <p>MM thanked Cameron McKnight and Michael Lovelace for their two years of support in the committee.</p> <p>LS thanked MM for all her help in the Committee and the hard work for the society in the last decade.</p> <p>LS announced that the 2025 ASSCR Annual meeting will be in the Gold Coast.</p> <p>Meeting closes at 3:45 PM.</p>	