

Australasian Virology Society.
2020 Annual General Meeting.

Date and time: Monday December 7th 2020, 1200 Melbourne time.
Place: Video conference

Minutes.

This meeting is part of the Society's 2020 Virtual Symposium. Details are here:
<https://avs.org.au/avs-virtual-symposium/>

1. Present and apologies.

1.1 Present.

P Speck ,G Tachedjian, J Mackenzie, L Herrero, D Purcell, Kirsty Short, R French, N Prow, Adi Idris, M Quinones-Mateu, R Bull, J Deerain, K Helbig, R Dietzgen, H Drummer, R Ghildyal A. Supramanian, K Subbarao, N McMillan. R Bull. D Rawle, Greg Moseley, Jill Carr, Nick Eyre, P White.

1.2 Apologies.

2. Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting (Dec. 5th 2019, Queenstown, New Zealand).

It was proposed that these be accepted (proposer: G Tachedjian, seconder: H Drummer); accepted. G Tachedjian spoke to the action items:

1. Bylaws: these are now in place;
2. Dr Robin McDiarmid's request around policies for collecting specimens of indigenous significance. Relevant links to national government body policies are now posted on the AVS website.

3. President's report.

The President thanks all members of the Committee of management. She spoke to how we've all pivoted to C-19, and about the difficulties imposed by lockdowns. She mentioned that the Society now has in place bylaws.

The President mentioned the conference report in Viruses on our last meeting.

She spoke to the Society's role in advocacy, and our response to the ICTV proposal re nomenclature, which was mirrored by the American Society for Virology. This matter was featured by Nature, and the ICTV compromised. She thanks AVS members who spoke to the media.

Spoke re ASMR and the minister wanting sector to speak with one voice.

Spoke to Retrovirology and the discount.

She warmly thanks to Professor Peter White for his generous financial gift to the Society.

4. Treasurers' report.

J Mackenzie presented this, as shown on the attached meeting papers.

He reported that AVS is now a charity.

5. Secretary's report.

This covered:

- (i) the requirements of Victorian Associations Incorporation Act, which have been met.
- (ii) the Society's charity status, and a proposal that we seek deductible gift recipient (DGR) status from the ATO; and
- (iii) our affiliation with J Gen Virol.

6. Membership Secretary's report: Dr Natalie Prow.

Dr Natalie Prow spoke to this, reporting that the membership portal is now live, and AVS has 109 members, most full paying.

7. AVS11, 2020 Biennial Scientific Meeting: Meeting Convener, Dr Lara Herrero, to report.

She spoke to this, mentioning the role of the LOC, and thanked the committee. No deposit has yet been paid to the venue. The venue is good. The program is being developed, and international speakers are being organized. Re national speakers, the LOC prefers mid- and early-career researchers to lead this. The venue capacity is 250.

8. Role of the AVS? What do members want the AVS to do?

The president discussed this, and suggested that virtual symposia are a great idea. Talked about this meeting.

PS spoke to need for better national pandemic and emerging infectious disease preparedness. The president spoke to need for an AVS position paper on this.

9. Any other business.

Peter White asked after possible hybrid meeting in 2021. Dr Herrero spoke to this.

10. Close of meeting. Closed at 1244.

Please email any apologies to peter.speck@flinders.edu.au