

# **Australasian Virology Society.**

## **2021 Annual General Meeting.**

**Date and time:** Tuesday December 7<sup>th</sup> 2021, 1pm Australian eastern daylight time.  
**Place:** Video conference.

### **Minutes.**

#### **1. Present and apologies.**

**1.1 Present.** Michael Beard, Peter Speck, Nick Eyre, Hawraa Jaber, Luke Kris, Evangeline Cowell, Joshua Dubowsky, Jill Carr, Rosa Coldbeck-Shackley, Brandon Tan, Marie Lowe, Ellie D'Angelo, Kylie Van der Hoek, Steve Johnson, Timothy Penn, Brooke Trowbridge, Emily Kirby, Jack Tredrea, Xavier Martin, Legesse Kifelew, Natalie Prow, Thomas Burton, Ornella Romeo, Jason Mackenzie, Gilda Tachedjian, Heidi Drummer, Rowena Bull, Barry Slobedman, Alison Abendroth, Karla Helbig, Miguel Quinones Mateu, Emma Harding, Natalie Verzele, Lara Herrero, Sarah Londrigan, Greg Moseley, Tony Cunningham, Michele Tate, Karyn Johnson, Peter White, Paul Young, Damian Purcell, Nigel McMillan.

**1.2 Apologies.** Barbara Coulson, Peter Revill, Natalie Netzler.

**2. Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting** (Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> 2020). G Tachedjian proposed, H Drummer seconded. Passed

**3. President's report.**  
**Attached.**

**4. Treasurers' report.**  
The meeting resolved to accept the financial report.

#### **5. Secretary's report.**

Thanks Gilda and congratulates her. As we are a charity, annual reports are now sent to the ACNC, not Vic. Dept of Justice. No request received as yet.

Charity status, proposal for DGR (deductible gift recipient) status. The secretary spoke to this proposal.

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

##### **Membership Report – AGM 2021**

1. Membership portal went live end of October 2020. At the 2020 AGM, there were 109 AVS members, that were mostly full paying members.
2. At the time of the 2021 AGM, there are 224 members, an increase of 115 members
3. Membership breakdown by membership type
  - a. Number of financial members = 135 (60% of total memberships)
  - b. Number of student members = 86 (38% of total memberships, only one student member is full paying and the rest are student members where the supervisor is a member)
  - c. Number of Low/Middle income countries = 1 (0.4%)
  - d. Number of retired members = 2 (0.9%)

4. Membership breakdown by region

- a. Australia = 202 (90% of total memberships)
- b. NZ = 12 (5% of total memberships)
- c. Overseas = 10 (4% of total memberships)

5. Membership breakdown by Australian states

- a. ACT = 8 (3.6%, up from 1.96% reported in 2020)
- b. NT = 0
- c. NSW = 40 (17.8%, up from 13.7% reported in 2020)
- d. QLD = 59 (26.3%)
- e. SA = 22 (9.8%, up from 5.9% reported in 2020 and largest increase in members across all states)
- f. TAS = 3 (1.3%)
- g. VIC = 68 (30.4%)
- h. WA = 2 (0.9%)

6. Membership breakdown by gender

- a. Male = 91 (40.6%)
- b. Female = 102 (45.5%)
- c. Non-binary = 31 (13.8%). This is probably not an accurate statistics and includes all members where a clear male or female gender could not be determined. AVS should consider a designated question during the membership process to capture the identified gender accurately.

**7. AVS11, 2022 Biennial Scientific Meeting: Meeting Convener, Dr Lara Herrero, to report.**

Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation in Australia and the uncertainty surrounding date border closures, the LOC made the difficult decision to postpone ASV11. Discussions with the Marriott on the Gold Coast allowed for the one-year postponement of our conference without financial penalty. New dates for 5-9th Dec 2022 have been secured with the Marriott. All sponsors have rolled over their support for the conference. All invited speakers have also confirmed they are happy to remain and attend in 2022. The LOC are now looking forward to getting back on track with organising the postponed ASV11 face-to-face meeting in the new year.

**8. Election of officers and committee members.** Only one nomination has been received for the positions of Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Elections will be held for the positions of Membership Officer (3 nominations, 1 position), Student Representative (2 nominations, 1 position) and ordinary committee members (8 nominations for 5 positions). These elections, conducted using OpaVote online technology, opened for voting at 0005hrs on Friday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and voting will close during the AGM.

Winners: Membership Officer: N Prow.

Committee members: B Slobedman, K Helbig, Sarah L, MQM, Greg M.

Student rep: Emma Harding.

**Handed over to H Drummer, who thanked Gilda.**

**9. Special resolution: changes to the Society rules.** To accommodate electronic elections and members joining by online means, there are minor changes proposed (see attached) to sections 6a, 29a, 29b, and the removal of Appendix 1 (this will be replaced by a simpler online process).

Proposed: H Drummer, seconded P Speck; passed.

**10. Role of the AVS?** What do members want the AVS to do?

PS suggested enhanced focus on impact of viruses on indigenous peoples.

**11. Any other business.**

**12. Close of meeting. The meeting closed at 2pm.**