

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists

TUESDAY 4 MAY 2004, 7-9.00AM,
CHELSEA ROOM, MARRIOTT MARQUIS HOTEL, NEW YORK

1. Attendance

B Singh, F Lu, C Chung, A Tasman, M Nishizono, E Pi, Z Xiao.

By Invitation

Dr Rod Munoz

2. Apologies

J Gold, R Menninger, ES Tan, H Chiu, EK Yeh, SK Min, R Pasnau, KH Lee, P Morris, Y Nakane, EK Yeh,

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed.

4. Matters Arising

a. Membership

i. Waiving Initiation Fee for all 2004 Members/Fellows

It was agreed that the Initiation Fee should be waived for all new Members and Fellows in 2004. The possibility of permanently eliminating the Initiation Fee was suggested by Dr Munoz, in order to make PRCP membership less expensive and therefore attract more members. This was discussed and it was generally supported.

ii. Reducing Subscription Fee

Prof Singh suggested that the subscription dues should be reduced in light of the rising value of the Australian dollar, and the Board agreed. The cost now will be: Fellow: AU\$150.00, Member: AU\$100.00 unless there is a considerable drop in the Australian dollar, in which case the matter will be reviewed.

iii. Links with APA, Dr R Munoz

Dr Munoz suggested that in order to gain a broader membership, psychiatrists who are members of any national psychiatric organization should automatically qualify to become a Member of the PRCP at a reduced rate (e.g. AUD\$75.00). If they wish to become a Fellow they will need to go through the full process of gaining letters of recommendation by two Board Members and have their application voted on by the Board, as well as paying full fees.

The Board discussed this possibility and thought the idea had merit and should be implemented after a final decision is made at the Board Meeting in Hong Kong.

- iv. New Members: Dr Michael Robertson (already accepted), Dr Samson Cho, EH Kua (to be voted on by the Board)
Drs Robertson and Cho were accepted as PRCP Fellows.
 - v. Dr Lanny Snodgrass to be made Fellow
The Board agreed that Dr Lanny Snodgrass should be made a Fellow of the PRCP as soon as his outstanding dues are paid.
 - vi. Members dropped for not paying dues
The list of members dropped for outstanding dues of more than three years was circulated. The Board agreed that these members should be dropped.
 - vii. Dues from Chinese Members – Helen Chiu
Prof Chiu (absent) has agreed to follow up the issue of outstanding dues from Chinese members. In addition Prof Zeping Xiao, the new Board members from Shanghai, who knew many of the names on the list agreed to do the same.
 - viii. Dr Hisashi Kumashiro's application for Emeritus status
Dr Kumashiro's application for Emeritus status was approved by the Board.
 - ix. Prof Nishizono reported the request for retirement from the Board of Dr K Asai due to health problems. The Board accepted Dr Asai's resignation.
- b. PRCP Newsletter (Prof B Singh, Prof P Morris)
- i. Correspondents – Dr Zeping Xiao (China), Dr Ming Been Lee (Taiwan), Dr Francis Lu (US), Dr Gabor Ungvari (Hong Kong)
There have been difficulties in getting Members/Fellows to contribute to the PRCP Newsletter. Selecting particular PRCP Members/Fellows to be correspondents and write a brief report for each edition of the Newsletter was put forward as a way of getting more substantial contributions. The Board agreed on this and correspondents will be approached by the Secretary General and the Editor of the Newsletter.
 - ii. Editions for 2003 and 2004
It was reported by Prof Singh that there were four editions of the PRCP Newsletter in 2003 and that there would be two more editions of the PRCP Newsletter in 2004 making it a total of the three editions for 2004.
- c. History of PRCP (Prof R Pasnau)
In Dr Pasnau's absence no comment was made on this matter other than that Dr Pasnau is still in the process of compiling historical material. The first draft of the History is available on the PRCP website: <http://www.prcp.org/publications.html>
- d. Working Groups – Research, Teaching, and Service Development. Reports from Nishizono, Chiu and Snodgrass/Firestone were deferred to the Hong Kong Meeting.
- e. Location of Secretariat in 2006 (end of 5 year term in Melbourne)
The future location of the PRCP Secretariat was discussed. The idea of moving the Secretariat to Hong Kong after 2006 (the end of the 5 year term) was suggested by Prof Singh. Discussion followed but no final decision was made except for support for the principle that the secretariat did not need to move with the Presidency.
- f. Non-psychiatrists at Congress
This was accepted as appropriate.
- g. Nominations for President-Elect required. To be elected by the Board.
Suggestions for nominations for President-Elect were discussed but no final decision

was reached. This will be finalized at the Board Meeting in Hong Kong prior to the Biennial General Meeting.

- h. Candidates for Board Membership (to be elected by the general membership at the Biennial General Meeting):
F Noda to replace M Nishizono,
Z Xiao to replace HQ Yan
MB Lee to replace EK Yeh,
EH Kua to replace R Menninger
? to replace K Asai
The Board agreed to the nominated candidates replacing the outgoing Board Members in October at the 11th Congress.
- i. Continuing Board Members: B Singh, H Chiu, ES Tan, F Lu, C Chung, J Gold, SK Min, Y Nakane, E Pi, A Tasman, KH Lee.
- j. The only suggestion for the 12th Congress remained that from Taiwan, however there was also discussion of the possibility of holding the meeting in San Diego in 2006 or 2007. An appointment of coordinator for the Taiwan Congress is required. Taiwan is keen to host the Congress but in 2005, but there were concerns that this would be too close to the 2004 Hong Kong Congress and there would not be enough interest. The matter will be considered further and decided upon at the Board Meeting in Hong Kong. Dr Xiao nominated Shanghai for the 13th Congress in 2008.

- 5. 11th Congress in Hong Kong 28-31 October 2004 (Prof H Chiu) and associated Board and Biennial General Members meetings
Prof Chiu sent a report on the progress of preparations for the 11th Congress with Prof Singh. The organization of the 11th Congress is progressing well and there will be some eminent contributors and many interesting presentations.

- 6. President's Report (Prof B Singh)
Nothing further to items covered in the Agenda.

- 7. President Elect's Report (Prof H Chiu)
In Prof Chiu's absence her report was read out by Prof Singh.
Prof Chiu reported on establishing six PRCP travel awards for young psychiatrists. These have been set up with sponsorship by Eli Lilly and Lundbeck. Each award is US\$500.00 and waived registration fees for the forthcoming PRCP Congress. Information is available via the PRCP website: <http://www.prcp.org/events.html>

A Consensus Meeting on 'Improving Quality of Life for Asian People with Dementia' was held on 29 April, 2004 in Hong Kong. A number of experts in the field from Australia and Asia participated. The meeting was organized jointly by the PRCP, WPA Section on Old Age Psychiatry, and the International Psychogeriatric Association. The local organizer was the Jockey Club Centre for Positive Ageing. All expenses were supported by Eisai. A Consensus document will be produced for publication.

Prof Chiu proposed the setting up of a Special Interest Groups within the PRCP the areas for each group suggested are:

- Psychotherapy – already set up by Dr J Gold
- Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Old Age Psychiatry

The groups could be advertised via the PRCP website, newsletter and the 11th Congress. The suggested direction is towards educational initiatives, service development, and research. Which could correspond to the existing Working Groups on Education, Research and Service Development already established by RPCP. Further discussion of these can be held at the 11th Congress.

Prof Chiu proposed a mentorship program to be set up by the PRCP in which senior psychiatrists could mentor young psychiatrists. This would attract junior psychiatrists to the PRCP and would facilitate the exchange of experience between Asian, US, and Australian psychiatry and provide early career and research advice for emerging psychiatrists.

8. Secretary General's Report (A/Prof Tan)

A/Prof Tan reported that the Secretariat in Melbourne is running well as are preparations for the 11th Congress. He noted the resignation of the four Board Members and the nominations for their replacements.

A/Prof Tan expressed concern over the high number of members (34) with outstanding dues of more than three years. These members were dropped because it was financially unviable to maintain them. The remaining membership are paying their dues regularly.

A/Prof Tan commented that the 11th Congress is developing well with a number of interesting papers to be presented.

He also expressed regret on behalf of the PRCP at the recent death of PRCP Fellow Professor Pierre Beumont, formerly of South Africa and more recently Professor of Psychiatry at University of Sydney, NSW, Australia. He also expressed condolences to the Editor of this Newsletter, Professor Phillip Morris, and his family for the sudden death of his daughter Megan on 4 March 2004.

9. Treasurer's Report (Prof F Lu)

- a. Question of US bank account, taxation and registration of PRCP as company in US
Dr Lu agreed to investigate the status of the PRCP bank account in the US as well as any outstanding tax debts that may have accrued. He will report back to the Secretariat at a later date.

10. Membership Report (Prof C Chung)

a. Membership Expansion

The issue of membership expansion was discussed and the Board agreed that there is a pressing need to gather more members. Dr Munoz's suggestions (see above) were considered a good way of expanding membership. Further to this it was suggested that recommendation letters for Fellows be reduced to one rather than two, and that the Board should vote on these matters via email, and not wait until the Board Meetings to decide on each application. The Board agreed to these changes.

Another suggestion was that there be a Junior Member category which had a reduced cost and would be available for students and resident membership or those under the age of 40. This was discussed but a final decision was delayed until the Hong Kong Meeting.

- b. Resignation: Dr Rodney Burgoyne, Dr Michael Napoliello
The resignations of Drs Burgoyne and Napoliello were accepted with regret by the Board.
- 11. PRCP Psychotherapy Interest Group terms of reference (Dr J Gold)
The terms of reference for the Psychotherapy Interest Group created by Dr Gold were distributed for information.
- 12. Other Business
- 13. Next Meeting to be held October 2004 in Hong Kong