

Vascular Society
of
Southern Africa



VASSA

Vaskulêre Vereniging
van
Suidelike Afrika

**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016
OF THE VASCULAR SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
HELD ON MONDAY 8th AUGUST 2016**

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The President, Mr Rajaruthnam, welcomed members and thanked them for attending. 46 members were present as per the attendance register.

Apologies were noted from:

- P Matley
- L Levien
- V Paruk
- H Boytchev
- J Islam

2 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 9TH AUGUST 2015

The minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting were taken as read and approved:

Proposed – J Tunnicliffe

Seconded – T Abdool-Carrim

3 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President reported on the following:

- A meeting held with Corporate Members of VASSA at which consensus had been reached on funding models and sponsorship regulations
- Julie Gelderman will be handing over corporate representative responsibilities to Stefan Conradie and Peter Rheeders. A vote of thanks was extended to Julie for all her administration and support
- The proposed Vascular Education Forum to be held in Bloemfontein was cancelled due to logistic reasons
- Meetings have been held with Discovery Health to discuss some of the concerns of the members in private practice. A further meeting to address billing issues will be held during the congress and Dr Tunnicliffe will report back on the discussions

- Communications have taken place with CMS and the matters are still under discussion
- Five members of the VASSA Executive Committee will be meeting with Medscheme with five senior doctors at the Medscheme Head Office in Cape Town – date to be confirmed
- The issue of PMBs has been resolved to a certain extent with the recent judgement against Genesis, which incurred legal cost in the region of R5.5 million, borne by Surgicom.
- A very successful Vascular Fellows Symposium was held in Port Elizabeth on 21-22 May 2016 under the management of Dr Honiball. Total expenditure was within budget despite the high cost of flights to Port Elizabeth
- VASSA's initiatives to raise funds for prostheses and educational purposes will start with a soccer tournament at Discovery Park on 29th August with four teams participating drawn from ASSA, VASSA, Corporate members and Discovery. The plan for a fundraising climb up Kilimanjaro may still take place in the future
- Academic Heads of Department met in September 2015. The minutes were sent to Mr Raj and Professor Veller. It was decided that, in future, there will not be a stand-alone meeting of academic heads. All matters relating to Academia will be included as agenda items of VASSA Exco meetings.

4 **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Professor Veller, presented the financial report as at 30.6.2016, VASSA's financial year end.

Noted that:

- The current balance sheet is positive. Most of the funds are invested in a Money Market account.
- Interest earned maintains the Society's capital and is inflation protecting for major expenses, particularly in case of a failed congress.
- Close to R180 000.00 was spent on educational activities
- Given that of the income which amounted to R752 755.64 the interest accumulated was R153 533.17 and an amount of R31 518.68 represented returns, the real surplus was just R41 692.03
- Running the society constitutes a major expense annually
- The society currently has 104 members, 467 of whom are Vascular Surgeons
- Corporate Membership:
 - VASSA's primary source of income is from 14 committed Corporate Members whose support is greatly appreciated.
 - SA Biomedical, Sanofi and Vascumed are Platinum Members.
 - SA Biomedical has been granted a waiver of fees for 2016.
 - Covidien and Medtronic have merged.
 - Terumo has recently joined as a corporate member.

Report accepted:

Proposed J Tunnicliffe

Seconded T Abdool-Carrim

5 **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- WFVS meeting will be held in Bengaluru, 15-18 September 2016 - <http://www.vsicon2016.com>. Seven Exco members will be attending and presenting papers.
- AATCVS meeting will be held in Maputo, 22-23 September 2016. Three or four Exco members are hoping to attend.

6 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The outgoing president, Mr Raj, thanked Exco and Corporate Members for their help, support and sponsorship during his term of office. He congratulated the new President, Dr Tunncliffe.

Nominations were called for the offices of President-elect, Secretary and Treasurer in addition to four elected members.

Corporate members were reminded that only one member from each company was permitted to vote.

Nominees accepted their nominations, votes were cast and counted, and the following members were duly elected.

- President – Dr James Tunncliffe
- President-elect – Professor Thanyani Mulaudzi
- Secretary – Dr Martin Forlee
- Treasurer – Professor Jay Pillai
- Elected – Dr Dirk le Roux
- Elected – Dr Pradeep Mistry
- Elected – Dr Chris Tsotetsi
- Elected – Dr Taalib Monareng (null & void - he is not a member of VASSA)

Professor Veller was acknowledged and thanked for his long term service and outstanding contribution as Treasurer. Subsequent to the AGM, Professor Veller agreed to be co-opted as an Exco member.

7 MEMBERSHIP FEES 2017

In view of the sound financial status, annual membership and corporate fees will not be increased in 2017. They will remain at:

- R50 400.00 – Corporate Members
- R735.00 – Vascular Surgeons
- R265.00 – Associate Members
- R265.00 – International Members
- R105.00 - Technicians

8 NEW MATTERS

a. Standardized Billing

Strongly supported the recommendation to convene a meeting of all vascular surgeons in private practice to reach agreement on the codes to be used for the various procedures. The agreed codes could then be communicated to the funders.

In order to avoid any implication of collusion with medical aid societies, or enquiry by the Competition Commission, Dr le Roux will seek legal advice on a framework for such a meeting before it is arranged.

The new Private Practice Sub-Committee within the VASSA Executive Committee will take this forward.

b. Standardized Treatment Algorithms

No discussion

c. Protecting Vascular Surgeons' Field of Expertise

Noted concern at the fact that some general surgeons are doing vascular procedures for which they are not trained, often to the detriment of the patients who then present with complications which need to be referred to appropriately qualified vascular surgeons.

Agreed that VASSA is not a statutory body with the authority to regulate but, in the interest of protecting patients, recommended that guidelines be drawn up to include limits and minimum training required by practitioners who undertake these procedures.

9 **SURGICOM AND VIDEO (P Matley)**

A short video presentation by Dr Matley was screened to inform private practice members of the Governance Pilot Project with Discovery Health which was launched at the end of June, to study clinical outcomes and costs of the five most commonly performed general surgical procedures.

Participants are required to be members of Surgicom and are asked to complete a very simple pre-populated on-line discharge summary, with drop-down lists and optional fields for detail, for any Discovery Health admissions and procedures. Discovery Health will pay members R380.00 per case for completing the discharge summary and a further R75.00 every time the patient's Health ID record is access for any consultation.

A peer-mentoring committee has been appointed to assist in the analysis of outliers- both good and bad.

Emphasized the importance of all surgeons in private practice joining Surgicom, which is their business arm which addresses problems and concerns of all South African surgeons, whether in private or state practice, although only about 40% of surgeons belong to Surgicom or SAPPF.

10 **FUNDRAISING**

Refer to item 3, President's Report

11 **AATCVS MEETING**

Refer to item 5, Future Meetings

12 **GUIDELINE MEETINGS**

The Aortic Aneurysm Guideline meeting will be held in Cape Town on 22 October 2017, using a different management model which, if successful, will be adopted in future for introducing and updating vascular guidelines.

The Venous Guidelines have been discarded due to the very poor uptake and very limited number of abstracts received.

13 **WEBSITE**

The 'new' website is up and running satisfactorily.

Members are advised that they are required to re-register on the website www.vascularsurgery.co.za to enable them to access the secure section. Submission of relevant content is encouraged.

14 **DISCOVERY**

Refer to item 9.

15 **VASSA 2017**

The next congress will be the ASSA-SAGES congress in Port Elizabeth during the first weekend in August 2017.

16 **NEXT MEETING**

The next annual general meeting will be held in Port Elizabeth during the VASSA-SAGES Congress in August 2017.

The meeting closed at 16h45

amc\VASSA AGM minutes 8 August 2016