

Vascular Society
of
Southern Africa



Vaskulêre Vereniging
van
Suidelike Afrika

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017 OF THE VASCULAR SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

**HELD ON 6th AUGUST 2017
BOARDWALK CONVENTION CENTRE
PORT ELIZABETH**

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The President, Dr Tunnicliffe, welcomed members and thanked them for attending. 38 members were present as per the attendance register. No apologies were noted.

2 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 8TH AUGUST 2016

The minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting were taken as read and approved:
Proposed – P Mistry
Seconded – T Mulaudzi

3 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr Tunnicliffe explained that logistics of the Congress programme led to the AGM being scheduled before the executive committee meeting, which is not ideal. Minutes of the executive committee meeting will, however, be sent out electronically.

Dealing with issues raised at the last AGM (a voting year), held in August 2016, he noted that:

- It was an unfortunate oversight that one individual who was nominated and voted on to the VASSA Executive Committee was, in fact, not a member of the society and had to be replaced by the member with the next number of votes
- In order to ensure transparency of the voting process, Dr Bala Pillay has designed a new voting procedure, together with a new ballot paper which will be disseminated as soon as they have been finalized.

Dr Tunnicliffe reported on the following matters:

- 57 doctors attended the VEF in Bloemfontein which was organized by Dr Pearce and which was a very successful meeting held in collaboration with the Academy of Family Practice. A VEF meeting will be held next year on a similar model..

- There has been interaction with CMS in a series of meetings about the ill-advised letter on EVAR. The 2017 Aortic Aneurysm Guidelines have been published and a copy sent to CMS, but there has been no further movement on the matter.
- The Fellows Symposium (VFS) planned for this year in Durban had to be cancelled owing to the very low attendance. This will be discussed at the forthcoming Exco meeting and members advised accordingly.
- Individual membership and corporate membership fees for 2018 will also be discussed at Exco.
- A major issue facing the Society will be the implementation of the NHI. The White Paper has been ratified by cabinet. Surgicom has been very involved in addressing this and sessions at the congress will be dealing with the subject.
- The many challenges may well result in litigation
- Strongly encouraged all surgeons to apply for membership of Surgicom.
- Practice Cost Studies will be conducted again, driven by SAMA, and every healthcare practitioner is urged to cooperate because reasonable tariff determination will depend on the results of the study.

4 **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Professor Pillai, presented the financial report as at 30.6.2017, VASSA's financial year end.

Noted that:

- Income for the year boosted with the R450 000 sponsorship from Medtronic for the 2017 Congress. Corporate and individual membership fees accounted for R528 241 of the income and R194 302 was earned in interest
- Expenditure included:
 - R58 500 - Administration costs
 - R1 034 - Bank Charges
 - R477 731 - VASSA Standalone Congress in 2016
 - R741 – Gifts
 - R5 944 – Exco meetings
 - R60 000 – sponsorship for Fellows attending EVC
 - R153 895 – travel to attend local and international conference
 - R69 715 – VEF meetings
- Accumulated funds are retained to guard against the devaluation of the South African currency and as a contingency fund against a failed congress or other unforeseen expenses
- R100 000 has been budgeted for the October 2017 guideline meeting in Cape Town
- VASSA's primary source of income is from 14 Corporate Members whose support is greatly appreciated and these members are requested to pay fees as soon as possible if they have not yet done so
- The society currently has 103 members, 51 of whom are Vascular Surgeons.

5 **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- a. The VASSA congress for 2018 will be discussed at the Exco meeting. It is scheduled for 17th – 20th October 2018, provisionally in Cape Town. It is anticipated that the congress will attract a large contingent of diverse guests.
- b. The WFVS meeting will be held in Lyon, France in September 2017. Professor Mulaudzi will represent VASSA at that meeting.
- c. It is not possible for VASSA to attend the next AACTVS meeting which will be held in Enugu, Nigeria, 13th – 15th September 2017. Determined to keep communications open and to invite AACTVS to run a session at the VASSA 2018 congress.

6 **MEMBERSHIP FEES 2018**

Fees for individual members of VASSA as well as corporate membership fees will be discussed at the Exco meeting and the decisions will be disseminated thereafter.

7 **NEW MATTERS**

a. **Changes in Private Practice**

Noted that 85% of the members of VASSA are in private practice and need to pay attention to the ongoing issues in private practice.

b. **Research work in Vascular Surgery**

Expressed grave concern at the lack of research work in vascular diseases and noted that no VASSA members attended the Surgical Research Society session. Traditionally, the main body of research in South Africa is driven by academic departments so Heads of the surgical departments need to be incentivized into promoting and encouraging this research. This matter will be included in the items to be discussed at the Exco meeting.

8 **GUIDELINE MEETINGS**

- a. The Aortic Aneurysm Guidelines meeting was held in October last year, the guidelines were published, loaded on to the VASSA website and circulated. They will also be submitted to the SAJS.
- b. A meeting to draft the Practice Guidelines for Venous Interventions is scheduled to be held in Cape Town on 28th October 2017.
- c. Forward planning will take place at the Exco meeting and updates of previously published guidelines will be considered.

9 **WEBSITE**

No new matters were raised concerning the website.

10 **COMMUNICATIONS**

a. EXCO

Requested that members of the executive deal promptly with requests for information and/or comment on matters such as the practice cost study and NHI implementation.

b. VASSA

Dr Tunnicliffe will meet with Professor Sandie Thomson to discuss VASSA publications in the SAJS.

11 **VASSA 2018**

Potential visitors for the VASSA 2018 congress will be considered at the Exco meeting. Members are requested submit recommendations for high profile visitors who could be invited to participate.

12 **NEXT MEETING**

The next annual general meeting (a voting year) will be held in Cape Town during the VASSA Congress in August 2018 and will definitely be scheduled to take place after the executive committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 17h45