

Meeting of Palliative Care Research Society AGM

Minutes of the Palliative Care Research Society Annual Meeting held on 30th April 2008 at the Palliative Care Congress, Glasgow

Present	Apologies
Bridget Johnston	Sarah Yardley
Marilyn Kendall	
Christine Ingleton	
Gunn Grande	
Louise Jones	
Fliss Murtagh	
Gail Eva	
Scott Murray	
Erna Haraldsdottir	
Anita Sargeant	
Simon Fisher	
Mike Bennett	
Jane Seymour	
Catherine Walshe	
Dan Munday	
Jonathan Koffman	
Helen Clayson	
Kumar Ramasamy	
Chris Todd	
Tanda Malik	

1. **Minutes of the last meeting, Sept 2007, Oxford**

Agreed as correct

2. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the last meeting

3. **Membership of the executive committee,**

Mike Bennett reported a number of changes to the membership of the executive committee. Erna Haraldsdottir joined the committee in October 07, and Fliss Murtagh is now a full member, having been previously a co-optee. Gunn Grande is standing down after 5 years, including serving a term as treasurer, for which she was warmly thanked. Christine Ingleton, also a long standing member of the committee, is standing down, and she was thanked for her most valuable contribution. Sheila Payne has been a co-optee, but is now standing down due to other commitments. Finally Mike reported that he too is standing down, having served for six years, including spells as secretary and chair of the society. He will be handing over the office of Chair to Bridget Johnston, and Gail Eva will be taking over the office of Treasurer from Gunn.

The PCRS website is now permanently hosted on the PCC server, and has been revised, with further improvements to follow.

Catherine Walsh, Communications Officer, has been sending frequent e-mail bulletins to members

4. **Chair's report**

Mike reported on the development of the PCRS strategy, which is now available on the society's website. Most of its objectives have been achieved.

Catherine Walsh was thanked for compiling, and sending round frequent newsletters, and for the production of a new logo, flyer and banner stand, all of which will help us to increase our membership and to connect more fully with it.

The PCRS aims to hold two events per year, and this has been achieved with a masterclass on Primary Palliative Care in Edinburgh on 6th March. This was hosted in conjunction with the two supportive and palliative care research collaboratives, and was well attended. The society also has a major role with the PCC in Glasgow in April. Christine, Bridget and Marilyn were thanked for representing the PCRS on both the organising and scientific committees. Jane Seymour is taking the lead on organising a conference on end-of-life decision making, to be jointly hosted with the CeCo collaborative, in Birmingham in January 2009.

5. **Treasurer's report**

Gunn Grande gave the report.

Current account and membership status

Total account balance March 2008	£16, 718.87
Subscriptions for 2008 to date	£2,190.00

Paid up members to end March 2008	80
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This is slightly down on last year, but is not comparing like with like. There are further memberships payments to come in.

£10,000 has been moved to a reserve account, where it will earn interest.

6. **Secretary's report.**

Marilyn Kendall gave the report. The hand over from Jane has gone smoothly, and things are progressing well.

7. **AOB**

Scott Murray thanked members for their support in the recent BMJ "Making a Difference" poll, to identify areas of health care in which doctors can make the most improvement to the quality of patient care. Palliative care beyond cancer, championed by Scott, Aziz Sheikh and Joanne Lynn, gained the most votes, and so will be a priority area for the BMJ over the coming year.

Fliss Murtagh proposed a formal vote of thanks to Mike for his work on behalf of the society

8. **Date of the next meeting**

Will take place at the Annual Scientific Meeting in 2009, date and venue yet to be decided.