Palliative Care Research Society

Annual General Meeting

Date: Monday 15th June 2015, 1.30 pm (telephone conference call)
Present: Barbara Jack, Sally Boa, Ruth Isherwood, Jo Bayly, Stephen Mason

1. Apologies:
Sonja McIlfatrick, Dorry McLaughlin, Julia Downing, Catherine Walshe, Jane Seymour, Hermann Ewald, Jo Hockley, Ros Scott, Barbara Daveson, Kate Knighting and Mary O Brien

2. Welcome:
Barbara Jack (Chair) welcomed everyone to the conference call

3. Minutes of the last meeting (March 2014):
These were read by all present and approved

4. Matters arising not otherwise covered:
None

5. Membership of the executive committee:
There are no changes to the executive committee this year. Barbara Jack (Chair), Julia Downing (Deputy Chair), Jo Bayly (Communications Officer), Sally Boa (Secretary), Sonja McIlfatrick (Treasurer), Dorry McLaughlin (Membership), and Ruth Isherwood (link to APM)
If any member is interested in joining the executive committee we would be delighted to hear from you as some of the executive team terms of office will come to an end next year.

6. Chair’s Report:
Barbara Jack reported the following:
Since the last AGM we have continued to work with the APM in the forthcoming PCC to be held next March in Glasgow. This is already developing into an exciting programme with key speakers confirmed including Art Frank, Marie Fallon, Scott Murray and John Bell (see website). There have been no changes to the member’s benefits following positive feedback from members re BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care as part of the membership package as well as EAPC membership
We have had two newsletters since the last AGM and we welcome feedback on the content. Jo Bayly the communications officer will pick up on this in her report
As was agreed at the last AGM we are exploring ways of supporting the development of Palliative Care research and we have held several subsidised masterclasses. The last item on the agenda focuses on forthcoming events and members will be invited to contribute to this part of the discussion.
Updates are currently in progress with the web site and again we welcome any comments or feedback.
Overall the society remains vibrant and financially stable (more in the treasures report). Barbara thanked the executive committee for all their input in making the PCRS an ongoing success.

7. Treasurer’s report:
The following report was read out by Barbara Jack on behalf of Sonja McIlfatrick (Treasurer):

The Palliative Care Research Society (PCRS) is in a financially secure position. In the year Jan - December 2014 reserves have been maintained to both sustain the organisation and to ensure business could continue for a period of at least 12 months if there was no additional income. The society is now in the pleasing position of considering how to use surplus funds to further palliative care research. To this end, investment has been made in continuing to develop the PCRS website, consideration of bursary scheme and support for regional training events.

Membership fees have remained unchanged in the year ending December 2014. Numbers are being maintained. As of Jan 2015 our current membership numbers were 108 (this has since gone up to 127). This has increased our income. That means we have a running costs of over £5,000 reserve, considered to be sufficient to cover our running costs for a 12 month period.

Compleat Conferencing Services continues to maintain up-to-date membership and financial databases.

In conclusion, Sonja thanked members of the Committee for their hard work and support that has enabled the achievement of a stronger financial position.

Bank balance at 31st December 2014

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<tr>
<td>£45,612</td>
<td>Reserve Account: £41,758</td>
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8. Membership Secretary’s report:
Numbers remain fairly stable at 127. We have followed up members who have not renewed and found the reasons are: retirement; no longer working in palliative care or left the UK.

9. Communication Officer’s report:
Jo Bayly reported that members can communicate with the committee using the gmail account: pcrs.research@gmail.com
We welcome enquiries to the committee and items for the PCRS Newsletter. We are looking for the following:
   a. Members experiences of attending Palliative Care Conferences, including the EAPC in Copenhagen or the 4th International Public Health and Palliative Care Conference held in Bristol. What presentations/posters/networking encounters made an impression?
   b. Research in progress. Do you have a website or social media account linked to your research we can publicise?
   c. Research into practice- we’d love to hear about any projects implementing research into practice.
   d. Local events
e. Items you would like us to post on our website/facebook page or twitter feed.
f. Items/events/news of imminent interest can be emailed to the membership

We also communicate with members through social media:

We have a Facebook Page which members are invited to ‘like’ (Palliative Care Research Society Facebook page). Our ‘likes’ have gone up from 125 in June 2014 to 630 in June 2015.

We also have a Twitter account which you can follow and tweet to @PCRScommittee. We are following 137 tweet accounts (including national and international palliative care and palliative care research organizations, as well as individual palliative care researchers). We have 370 followers. If we’re not following you and you would like us to, send us a tweet or follow us and we’ll follow you back.

10. PCRS Events

The Master class programme is ongoing with recent events in N Ireland and Scotland. PCRS is happy to support relevant supporting seminars/symposiums: we have advised members that we are hoping to support some events across the UK over the next year. To date there have been several conversations and we are hoping to advertise some free events in the near future. We are happy to consider suggestions from members for potential events.

Conferences:

International Palliative Care Network Conference - 2015 is an online conference held under the auspices of the European Association for Palliative Care. PCRS are sponsoring a poster prize for PhD or masters researcher poster. The prize will be a year’s free membership.

Conference2015@palliativecarenetwork.com

Palliative Care Congress (PCC) – the PCRS alongside the APM are partners in the PCC – the next conference is March 2016 in Glasgow and the call for abstracts is open. There is a reduced fee for PCRS members. It is a very exciting programme and we encourage members to visit the website.

In 2018, PCRS will be leading PCC – venue to be confirmed.

We welcome any comments or suggestions from the members regarding these events and suggestion for other initiatives

11. AOB:

Stephen Mason welcomed the fact that PCRS has organised local events such as the writing workshops and also our communication through social media and the website. Other options for future local workshops were discussed:

- The impact of the James Lind Palliative Care Research Priorities on funding for research. Barbara will contact Sabine Best to discuss this. The committee will discuss this in more detail at our next meeting. It will be revisited at next year’s AGM.
- NIHR funding – Barbara Jack and Stephen Mason will discuss this and contact someone at NIHR to explore the possibility of running local workshops focusing on this.

12. Date of next meeting:

The next AGM will be held in March 2016 at the PCC in Glasgow