

NEUROSURGICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting

Held on September 25th, 2019 at 10.30am

Held at the Ingkarni Wardli Conference Room, University of Adelaide, North Tce, Adelaide

Present: NRF Board Members: Professor Robert Vink AM - President, Mr Mel Zerner (Treasurer), Dr Glenn McCulloch (Vice President), Mr Don Donlan, Assoc Prof Renee Turner (NRF Director of Neurosurgical Research) and Ms Ginta Orchard – (Secretary) Executive Officer.

Other NRF Members: Mr Tim Neill, Dr Brian North AO, (Life Member) Robert Neill, (Life Member) Professor Peter Reilly AO, Andrew Parker, Leonie Warmington, Ints Pukitis, Margota Pukitis, Pam Downward, Dr Miranda Jelbart, Valda Jones, Kerry Buttery and Claire Withers.

Apologies: Ms Catherine Branson (Patron), Dr Nick Vrodos, Mrs Nadia Kingham, Mr James Litt, Mr Stephen White, Ms Melanie Cooper AM, Prof Mathew McDonald, Dr Cindy Molloy, Mr Robert Searcy (Life Member), Professor Derek Frewin (Life Member), Professor PJ Wormald, Prof Brian Freeman, Dr Richard Turner, Mrs Alison Kinsman, Dr Stephen Santoreneos, Mr Richard Campbell (Life Member), Mr Richard Fewster (Life Member), Wendy Trow and Mr Chris Ashenden.

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 6th September 2018:

Prof Robert Vink proposed a motion to adopt the minutes; this was seconded by Mr Mel Zerner and the motion was carried unanimously.

President's Report: Prof Robert Vink AM

Robert Vink tabled his written report in the 2019 Annual Report. He highlighted the following items contained in his written report:

1. The Foundation has had a particularly successful year that has seen a number of researchers at South Australia's three major Universities supported to undertake world-class research that is relevant to neurosurgery today.
2. These research projects included aspects of traumatic brain injury, paediatric concussion paediatric traumatic brain injury, neurodegeneration including Parkinson's Disease, brain tumour various aspects particularly glioblastoma.
3. The Abbie Simpson Clinical Fellowship funds were awarded to Dr Adam Wells (UoA) to support his clinical research projects over the next 3 years.
4. The growth in applications has seen the need to expand our Scientific Committee, which under the chairmanship of Dr Glenn McCulloch now includes Prof. Matthew McDonald, Dr Cindy Molloy, Prof. Peter Reilly, Assoc. Prof. Renée Turner and Dr Frances Corrigan. I sincerely thank the Scientific Committee for all the tremendous work they do.
5. The NRF also works with other philanthropic organisations to bring high quality neurosurgical research projects to their attention. These generous donations from our philanthropic partners were received after the formal close of the NRF financial year and will appear in next year's financial reports
 - The James and Diana Ramsay Foundation two projects:
 - “Targeting inflammation to prevent brain swelling following paediatric head injury” by Dr Frances Corrigan (UniSA), Assoc. Prof. Renée Turner (UoA) and Dr Amal Abou-Hamden (WCH) for \$214,500 over 3 years.
 - “The evolution of decision-making impairment in Parkinson's Disease: Prediction and prevention” by Assoc. Prof. Lyndsey Collins-Praino (UoA) for \$219,685 over 3 years.

- The Coopers Brewery Foundation, \$142,400 from their Coopers Brewery annual Golf Day to be donated to support stroke research (Assoc. Prof. Renée Turner, UoA).
 - The Wilkins Family Foundation towards clinical equipment
Dr Stephen Santoreneous WCH
RAH Collaborative clinical TBI/stroke research being undertaken by Dr Adam Wells (UoA), Assoc. Prof. Renée Turner (UoA) and Dr Frances Corrigan (UniSA).
6. Creation of an NRF Chair of Brain Tumour Research at the University of South Australia, with that research to be located in the new UniSA Cancer Research Institute. We are proud to announce that Prof. Stuart Pitson was the successful applicant and has been awarded the title of “NRF Chair of Brain Tumour Research” for a period of 3 years.
 7. The NRF board has been developed an operational strategy for the Foundation moving forward. A planning session on this topic was held in March with several notable outcomes including focussing our research donation strategy, formalising how the newly created research investment fund will operate, and agreeing on a staffing strategy. With the increasing importance of our digital presence, we have appointed Gemma van den Akker as part time Communications and Marketing Officer.
 8. We have had Board retirements of Patron Cathy Branson AC, our Treasurer Mel Zerner and board member James Litt all retire from the board. Each of them has made important contributions to the NRF, with James playing a particularly notable role with respect the SAPOL “Ride like Crazy” partnership, Cathy having improved so many aspects of our board governance procedures over her 5 years as patron, and Mel having so skilfully steered our finances for most of his 20 years on the board. Mel, in particular, was a key strategic voice on the NRF board executive and will be sorely missed. Thank you all for your invaluable contributions.
 9. We welcome Tim Neill, whose family has had a long association with the NRF, was approached to join the board as Treasurer and has graciously accepted the invitation. Our discussions regarding a potential Patron will continue until someone suitable is identified and appointed. Being a member of the NRF board is a big commitment and requires the member to donate their time and expertise to the NRF, and to be an ambassador for the Foundation. I am fortunate to be the President when we have such a capable and dedicated board working so hard for the NRF. I sincerely thank each of the members for their ongoing contribution.
 10. I also will take this opportunity to thank all our donors, supporters and partners because without you, the NRF would not be able to achieve its important mission of supporting world-class neurosurgical research. There is no question in my mind that your support saves lives.

A motion to adopt the President’s report was proposed by Prof Robert Vink, seconded by Mr Don Donlan and carried.

Financial Report: Treasurer - Mr Mel Zerner

This is my last Financial Report after 20 years as Treasurer for the NRF. Mel Zerner explained the Financial Report is in the Annual Report page 18.

The NRF had received donations and fundraising income totalling \$894,217 while the Investment income was \$294,846. Grants of \$1,189,126 were allocated to cover PhD Funding, Paediatric Researcher, Brain Tumour Research and Research Equipment. The deficit \$153,364 will covered by previous years surpluses.

Mel highlighted that the investment income had been good this year and did cover administration costs.

Mr Mel Zerner moved a motion to adopt the Financial Report and Mr Don Donlan seconded it; this motion was carried. The President thanked Mr Zerner for his time in compiling the financial reports.

Election of Officers:

Prof. Robert Vink vacated the Chair and the Secretary, Ms Ginta Orchard assumed the Chair.

- Nomination for President: There was one nomination: Prof Robert Vink AM, Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of South Australia as President. Ms Ginta Orchard seconded the nomination.

Professor Robert Vink AM being elected unopposed.

Professor Vink took the chair and thanked the meeting for his election. He thanked and acknowledged the on-going commitment and work of the NRF Board Members.

- Retiring from the Board: Mr James Litt and Mr Mel Zerner – Treasurer
- New Nominations received for the Board: Mr Tim Neill
- Nominations for NRF Board Membership were received for the re-election of: Dr Glenn McCulloch, Dr Cindy Molloy and Ms Nadia Kingham

These nominations were duly seconded, they were re-elected unopposed.

General Business: nil

The President closed the Meeting at 10.45am.

Professor Robert Vink AM stood down as NRF Chair of Neurosurgical Research and introduced Assoc Prof Renée Turner as Director of Neurosurgical Research at the University of Adelaide.

Assoc Prof Renee Turner, Director of Neurosurgical Research will introduce researchers:

1. Spinal Cord Injury: Kavi Sivasankar PhD student
2. Brain tumour: Dr Briony Gliddon
3. Brain tumour: Dr Rebecca Ormsby Brain Tumour Bank
4. Stroke: Assoc Prof Renee Turner
5. Parkinson's disease: Dr Irina Baetu

Assoc Prof Renée Turner thanked the speakers and invited everyone to enjoy lunch.