

NEUROSURGICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Minutes of the 58th Annual General Meeting

Held on September 5th 2024 at 6.30pm

Held at Ingkarni Wardi Conference Room Level 7, University of Adelaide, North Tce Campus

Present: NRF Board Members: -Vice President Assoc Prof Santosh Poonnoose, Mr Tim Neill, (Treasurer), Prof Stuart Pitson (NRF Chair Brain Tumour Research), Assoc Prof Renee Turner (NRF Director of Neurosurgical Research), Nadia Kingham and Ms Ginta Orchard – (Secretary) Executive Officer.

Other NRF Members: Dr Glenn McCulloch, Dr Adam Wells (Abbie Simpson Clinical Fellow), Ms Melanie Cooper AM, Robert Neill, (Life Member), Dr Chris Tsimiklis, David Orchard, Cate Whitehead, Kerry Buttery, Prof Peter Reilly and Di Floreani.

Apologies: President Dr Nick Vrodos, Mr Stephen White, Dr Xenia Doorenbosch, Dr Simon Sandler, Mr Richard Fewster (Life Member), Mr Chris Ashenden, Prof Mathew McDonald and Mr Andrew Goodhand.

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 13th September 2023:

Dr Santosh Poonnoose proposed a motion to adopt the minutes; this was seconded by Mr Tim Neill and the motion was carried unanimously.

President's Report: Vice President Assoc Prof Santosh Poonnoose, Vice President Assoc Prof Santosh Poonnoose tabled President Nick Vrodos Report this written report in the 2024 Impact Report. He highlighted the following items contained in his written report:

1. This has been Nick's first year in the role of NRF President and mine as Vice President. It has been inspiring to see the dedication of all involved. I would also like to thank Dr Glenn McCulloch for bringing us through the very difficult times during the COVID outbreak.
2. Your donations last year during our celebratory 60th year have reached the labs and are making an impact today.
With your help, we are able to contribute \$1,378,531 to 34 different grants and equipment projects. Over the past 5 years our researchers have been able to utilise \$700,000 of NRF seed funding to attract \$32M in further research funding to SA.
This equates to a 45 fold return for every NRF donated dollar, which is an outstanding result, so thank you very much for all your support
3. I would like to further add that last month it was my pleasure as Chair of the Scientific Committee along with the Board authorising the 2024 / 2025 financial year NRF Grants \$1,375,112 in 29 neurosurgical projects including:
7 Research Assistants, clinical trials, 3 scholarships, equipment and much needed SA Neurological Brain Tumour Bank support.
4. There are many people to thank for the successful activities of 2023/2024 – our staff, volunteers, donors, board members, researchers, fundraisers, event organisers, corporate sponsors, and most of all, our patients, and their families.
5. Thanked Jessica Anderson for preparing the NRF Annual Report graphic design pro bono.

A motion to adopt the President's report was proposed by Vice President Assoc Prof Santosh Poonnoose, seconded by Mr Tim Neill and carried.

Financial Report: Treasurer - Mr Tim Neill

Mr Tim Neill explained the Financial Report is in the Annual Report page 31.

Tim thanked William Buck and particularly Grant Martinella for their pro bono auditing services.

The NRF had received donations and fundraising income totalling \$1,014,217.

Tim highlighted that there are now 3 investment funds with current balances:

- Research Fund \$1,929,102
- Scholarship Fund \$ 224,797
- Operational Fund \$3,989,954

Mr Tim Neill reported that the NRF has changing Investment Management Companies managing NRF investment portfolios after an extensive review from the NRF Investment Committee from Perpetual to Morgan Stanley. Tim thanked Morgan Stanley for their smooth transition and work so far.

Mr Tim Neill reported that Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Act 2012 to the Board Members of Neurosurgical Research Foundation Incorporated

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief during the year ended 31 March 2024 there have been:

- no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Mr Tim Neill moved a motion to adopt the Financial Report and Ms Glenn McCulloch seconded it; this motion was carried.

The Vice President thanked Mr Tim Neill for his time in compiling the financial reports.

Election of Officers:

Nomination for President: There was one nomination: Dr Nick Vrodos as President.
Dr Nick Vrodos being elected unopposed.

Nomination for NRF Board Membership were received for the re-election of:
Dr Xenia Doorenbosch, and Mr Stephen White.
These nominations were duly seconded, they were re-elected unopposed.

General Business:

The Vice President Assoc Prof Santosh Poonnoose closed the Meeting at 6.45pm.

Assoc Prof Renee Turner acknowledge that we were meeting on Kaurana lands and introduce the Guest Speakers:

Dr Chis Tsimiklis - 'Update on endoscopic spine surgery in SA'

Dr Tessa Gargett- 'Cell therapies for treatment of primary brain tumours'

Shannon Stuckey - 'Neuroinflammation and Functional Decline in Delayed Neurodegeneration following Ischaemic Stroke'

A/Prof Larisa Bobrovskaya - 'The role of orexin in Parkinson's disease'