



**Minutes of ANZCA Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine Special Interest Group  
Annual General Meeting  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Coogee Beach, Sydney Thursday 15 September 2011 0900**

**1. Attendance and apologies:**

Apologies: Dr Barbara Trytko, Dr John Williamson, Dr David Davies, Dr Roslyn Lloyd-Williams, Dr Ian Unsworth, Dr Steve Berrill, Dr Bob Webb, Dr Bob Wong, Dr Harry Oxer,

Attendance: A/Prof Mike Davis, Dr Margaret Walker, Dr Fiona Sharp, Dr Denise Blake, Dr Suzy Szekely, Dr Glen Hawkins, Dr Catherine Meehan, Dr Neil Banham, Dr Ian Millar, Dr Jan Lehm, Dr John Orton, Dr Rahda McKay, Dr David Matley, Dr Simon Mitchell, Dr Ken Thistlewaite, Dr David Smart, A/Prof Michael Bennett, Dr David Wilkinson, Dr Folke Lind.

**2. SIG Status**

**2.1 Executive:**

A/Prof Michael Bennett, NSW  
Dr Ian Millar, Vic  
Dr Andrew Fock, Vic  
Dr Margaret Walker, TAS  
Dr David Smart, TAS  
Dr David Wilkinson, SA  
Dr Bob Webb, Qld  
A/Prof Mike Davis (Editor of Journal)

Dr Bob Wong has retired. A/Prof Mike Davis is an ex-officio member of the Executive in his role as Editor of the Journal. Currently there are no representatives from Western Australia and New Zealand. Dr Neil Banham volunteered to represent Western Australia and A/Prof Mike Davis will approach Dr Steve Berrill to represent New Zealand.

Dr Margaret Walker has formally stood down as the Chair, but will continue to Chair the 2011 AGM meeting, and will remain on the Executive Committee.

**2.2 Membership**

Currently there are 201 members of the SIG, including 4 associate members.

**2.3 Financial report**

The Financial report was presented. ACECC allocate money to each SIG for educational expenses each year.

ACECC is a joint initiative of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, the Australian Society of Anaesthetists and the New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists.



### 3. Minutes of last AGM:

The last AGM with a quorum was in 2008. No minutes of that meeting are available for confirmation. In 2009 Dr Jan Lehm tried to get the clinical indicators for Hyperbaric Medicine endorsed by the College, but there has been no progress on this front, as the College not been sufficiently interested. Margie Cowling was formally approached for information about the process required, but has not been forthcoming with any information. All units are currently recording 4 clinical indicators, which are reported at the HTNA meeting each year, but these need to be formally endorsed by ANZCA, so that they can be adopted by the ACHS hospital accreditation system. Dr Walker undertook to follow up the required process with the college, and the New Programs committee. Dr Lehm reported that the ACHS asked Prince of Wales Hospital at their last accreditation visit what clinical indicators they collected, the HTNA indicators were presented, and they were noted. ANZCA need to approve our clinical indicators before the ACHS will formally accept our clinical indicators. These clinical indicators can be found in the final pages of the HTNA annual report. The HTNA have been collecting this data for years, and it would be useful to standardise the definitions and reporting of these clinical indicators.

The ANZHM course has been run annually as usual by POWW. It is almost fully subscribed for next year already.

The whole reason for the existence of the SIG was to develop the training programme and the certificate. With the changes to the staffing and beaurocracy at the college, all corporate knowledge regarding the SIG and the certificate programme has been lost. The incident provoking the resignation of Dr Margaret Walker was the problems surrounding the certificate for Dr David Cooper. Dr Cooper had completed all requirements of his training in October 2009 and had his certificate ratified by Council in October 2010 (the signed certificate was actually seen by one of our local councilors). However the certificate was never sent to him, and when the Diving and Hyperbaric SIG chased up the college to see where it was, the College denied that he had even qualified for the certificate, despite his being charged the annual certificate holders subscription.

Congratulations were extended to Dr Neil Banham on being awarded his certificate, which was signed in June 2011. Dr Banham noted that he has not actually received his certificate at this point! The meeting hopes that this certificate does not go missing like Dr Cooper's. Certificate has been signed on 3rd August.

### 4.0 Election

A/Prof Mike Bennett again asked the group if there was another volunteer for chair, as Dr Margaret Walker has been doing it for six years. Dr Suzy Szekely volunteered to take it on with support from Dr Walker. This met with unanimous support from the group.



The new Diving and Hyperbaric Special Interest Group Executive Committee:

Dr Suzy Szekely, SA (Chair)  
A/Prof Michael Bennett, NSW  
Dr Ian Millar, Vic  
Dr Andrew Fock Vic  
Dr Margaret Walker, TAS  
Dr David Smart, TAS  
Dr David Wilkinson, SA  
Dr Bob Webb, Qld  
A/Prof Mike Davis (Editor of Journal)  
Dr Neil Banham, WA

#### 5.0 Future meetings:

ANZCA ASM Perth May 2012. Dr Simon Mitchell reported that he has been invited to speak at a scientific session, which is apparently a hyperbaric medicine session. Dr Mitchell will forward correspondence to the chair for information. No-one else from the meeting was aware of a DHM SIG scientific session at that meeting.

ASA NSC Hobart October 2012. The Diving and Hyperbaric SIG will host a session. The theme of meeting is "Anesthesia on the Edge" and it will take place from September 29- Oct 2nd.

Dr Margaret Walker commented that it is important to hold a scientific session at at least one meeting each year.

#### 6.0 Report on the Journal of Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine

A report on the Journal was presented by Editor A/Prof Mike Davis. The Journal has now achieved Medline citation. He will be allowed to put the three previous years on PubMed, but there is a cost associated with this. Preparation of the XML files of the abstracts will take around a year, and the cost will not be an operating cost of the journal. Cost will be around 60 hours of secretarial work for the back issues (\$2000.00). Ongoing issues will be covered by the journal budget. A/Prof Davis plans to put a proposal to ANZCA and the ASA for possible funding to help with this cost.

The abbreviation for the Journal will be *diving hyperb med*.

Submissions this year to the journal are approximately double those received prior to amalgamation with the EUBS.

A professional epidemiologist (Jane Hayworth) and a marine biologist (Martin Sayer) from Scotland have now joined the editorial board. Two more people are required, especially a physiologist and another hyperbaric physician. Volunteers should contact A/Prof Mike Davis with their CV.

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## 6.0 College SIG Coordinator for MOPS programme in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine

The use of the DHM journal as an appropriate MOPS activity was discussed. The coordinator of MOPS was originally A/Prof Mike Bennett, but as chief examiner he has a conflict of interest. Dr David Cooper has expressed an interest in being the MOPS coordinator in association with Dr Margaret Walker. The MOPS section has not been utilized very much to date, but should be advertised and people encouraged to utilize the journal as a MOPS activity. There is a link to the journal from the ANZCA website. SIG members should be made aware of the MOPS activities run by the SIG. A/Prof Davis will coordinate this.

## 7.0 Other Business

### 7.1 Facility accreditation:

Currently accredited facilities are:

Royal Hobart Hospital, The Prince of Wales Hospital, The Alfred Hospital, Fremantle Hospital, Townsville General Hospital. Dr Chris Butler has been appointed supervisor of training at Townsville. We welcome Dr John Orton, the new director of Townsville General Hospital Hyperbaric Medicine Unit. Christchurch has had accreditation withdrawn as of the beginning of the 2011 academic year. Dr Steven Berrill did not respond to our offers of assistance, A/Prof Mike Davis has not been able to be involved in the unit due to illness, and the unit is very short of staff. Christchurch may reapply at any time should their staffing levels change. There has been no application yet from Royal Brisbane Hospital – Dr Bob Webb to submit. Royal Adelaide also needs to resubmit their paperwork for accreditation.

### 7.2 Trainee issues

ANZCA need to have an idea of when trainees will be able to sit exams, so that an exam can be scheduled.

Dr Glen Hawkins asked about trainees from overseas registering for our certificate. At present, there is nothing in place to accommodate overseas-based trainees. Overseas based holders of FANZCA are welcome to become members of the SIG. It is not possible to run an international training scheme. Dr Ian Miller described the EDTC process which is being developed in Europe, which may be more appropriate for these specialists. ANZCA trainees need to spend 18 months working in an accredited unit. ANZCA has been reasonably flexible to date, but we do not want to extend our reach too far overseas. Entry level for the certificate is the SPUMS Diploma or equivalent, and overseas trainees could present with a qualification awarded by their local body for assessment of equivalence. We do not want to make this qualification impossible to get, but we should concentrate on Australian and New Zealand trainees. Trainees from overseas should satisfy our criteria.

### 7.3 Queries from Dr John Williamson

Dr John Williamson's questions were noted. In his absence, it was decided that clinical questions were outside the scope of this meeting. A workshop to review the ANZHMG list of recommended indications for HBOT will be scheduled prior to the HTNA meeting next year.



### **7.3 ANZCA SIG funding**

A/Prof Mike Bennett asked what kind of things that ANZCA SIG seed funding may be used for. Could this money be used to have the Journal put on line? Dr Walker to contact the College to ask what the guidelines for the use of the seed money are, and if it would be possible to have the cost of having the Journal of Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine listed on PubMed paid through this fund. A request for \$2,000.00 to be sent by Dr Walker. It was noted that this money can also be used to pay for invited speakers to SIG meetings.

### **Next meeting: TBA**

The attendance at this AGM has been the best ever, so it was agreed that best time to hold the AGM of the SIG is in association with the HTNA meeting. A/Prof Mike Bennett suggested that we should approach the HTNA and have a formal SIG Scientific Meeting in association with the HTNA meeting every year.

Meeting closed at 10:06 am.