



MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 4 September 2010
HELD AT LORD CHARLES HOTEL, SOMERSET WEST

1. Welcome
2. Apologies: Dr Gene Elliott
3. Attendance: according to register
4. Previous minutes: accepted (proposed by Steve Oliver?)
5. Financial report: Steve Oliver gave a summary of the society's finances (attached). Funds available at present total approximately R160 000. After allowing for expected expenses of about R60 000 (for conference and workshop costs), the balance is R100 000. Steve will investigate investing unused money more effectively. While there was a comment that bank charges were high, Olga Perovic and Steve pointed out that ABSA had been the only bank willing to offer services to the society, and they had been very accommodating. However, Steve will look at costs. Only 5 companies have paid an annual subscription- Steve will approach others if there are any other lists or names available. He will also approach manufacturers of generic antibiotics and companies providing diagnostics. It was agreed that society funds would be used for annual meetings, as well as to fund working group meetings for those actively involved. Acceptance of financial report proposed by Anne von Gottberg, and seconded by Andrew Whitelaw.
6. Constitution: Amendments to the constitution were considered, mainly relating to clarification of requirements for ordinary membership, and change to annual meetings. The amended constitution was adopted by those present.
7. FSASP: SASCM's affiliation with FSASP has been accepted by their exco and will be formally approved at their AGM tomorrow. Future conferences: 2011 will be a combined Laboratory Medicine Conference 31 August – 4 September in Sandton, 2012 International Anatomical Pathology conference in Cape Town at CTICC, there will

be a combined haematology/ chemical pathology/microbiology conference at a nearby venue. At present it seems unlikely that the technologists' society will be willing to alter their pattern of conferences to accommodate our desire for combined conferences that alternate with FIDSSA. SASCM members re-iterated that they are unable to attend FIDSSA and FSASP conferences in the same year. Accordingly it was accepted that there will not be a SASCM organised microbiology component in 2011, i.e. no separate track, no speakers, no expectation of financial support from FSASP. However, microbiologists will attend in their personal capacity (and speak if invited). Mark Nicol will inform FSASP of these decisions and Olga Perovic will give a report (?) FSASP wants to start an electronic journal – SASCM will not actively support this, due to involvement with SAJEI.

8. Editorial committee: It was resolved to reconstitute the editorial committee, to be actively involved in approving and preparing reports for publication in journals or on the website. The following members volunteered: Olga Perovic, Nelesh Govender, Warren Lowman, Rena Hoffman, Yacoob Coovadia, Colleen Bamford. Elizabeth Wasserman advised that the society should investigate issues of copyright and intellectual property.
9. Corporate membership: the question of possible benefits to corporate members, other than access to surveillance data, was raised. Nelesh Govender suggested that the society consider whether a disclosure of financial support should be made by the society.
10. Future areas for activity: these should relate to objectives of society (which themselves could be subject of discussion). Suggestions: education , involvement with other societies, e.g. in drawing up of guidelines. In this regard, IDSSA is initiating a meningitis guideline, with Anne von Gottberg's participation.