



## MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 28 September 2012 in Cape Town

1. Welcome
2. Apologies: Mark Nicol, Jeanette Wadula
3. Minutes of previous AGM accepted (proposed: Chetna Govind, seconded: Nelesh Govender)
4. Chairman's report: Chetna Govind presented a summary of the activities of the last year on behalf of Mark Nicol.
  - a. No surveillance workshop was held in past year, chiefly because of antibiotic stewardship meeting held in February. March.
  - b. In the public sector ongoing struggles to access quality data via Central Data Warehouse.
  - c. Regular publication of articles analyzing surveillance data in South African Journal of Epidemiology twice a year
  - d. Participation in PATHPOINT conference with good number of microbiology poster submissions
  - e. Regular participation in FIDSSA publications – Case of the month and FIDSSA quarterly
5. Finances: Rena Hoffmann (currently on maternity leave) has taken on the office of Treasurer replacing Steve Oliver. No formal financial report was presented in Rena's absence; however the society had approximately R30 000 in 2 accounts prior to expenses for current PATHPOINT conference. The number of contributions from pharmaceutical companies has decreased. Members felt that there may be a need to revisit the issue of financial support from companies, and their access to surveillance data.

6. Other matters:

- a. Members felt strongly that it is important to have an annual one day meeting, separate from a conference, suggested to hold this in Johannesburg in September next year.
- b. Queries were raised about the vision of the society, with suggestions that the membership be expanded to include other persons involved in microbiology, not just pathologists. The experience of similar international associations was requested.
- c. Nominee for chair of Federation of South African Societies of Pathology (FSASP): it is the turn of SASCM to provide a chair for the next 2 years. Thanks to Chetna Govind who accepted the role, with Yacoob Coovadia offering to assist her.
- d. Participation in FSASP conference in 2014- although SASCM will be involved in the International Society of Infectious Diseases conference in Cape Town in April 2014, members felt that it was still important to be involved in FSASP which will probably be in September 2014, but to limit the microbiology to 1 day only. It was noted that there are a number of pathology type conferences occurring, and that it is expensive for people to attend multiple conferences.
- e. Nelesh Govender requested support from the society for other related conferences, namely mycology conference linked to the AIDS Mycosis meeting.
- f. Colleen Bamford had indicated her desire to step down from position as co-ordinator of public sector data, and had suggested Nontombi Mbele as successor. Olga Perovic and Nelesh Govender suggested that the collection of surveillance data from the public sector be handled through the Centre for Opportunistic, Tropical and Hospital Infections of the NICD. The advantages of this would be their proximity to CDW and the availability of full-time epidemiology support. Some members were concerned that such a change might have

negative consequences for the society and might jeopardise the society's support from pharmaceutical companies. Given the small number of members present, it was decided that there needs to be further discussion among members before a decision is reached. In the interim Colleen Bamford agreed to continue as co-ordinator for public sector.