

# Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law

## Annual General Meeting 2023

17:00-18:00 (AEST)

Tuesday, 21 November 2023

### Agenda

**Venue:** Queensland University of Technology, Room P514

1	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Attendance and apologies</li></ul>	Bernadette Richards
2	Minutes of the previous AGM <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Appendix 1</li></ul>	Bernadette Richards
3	Conference 2023 update	Samuel Roach and Shin-Ning Then
4	AABHL streams update	Stream Leaders
4.1	Strategy for Streams going forward	Stream Leaders Bernadette Richards
5	Stream vacancies	Bernadette Richards
6	Finance and Membership Report	Cynthia Forlini
6.1	Recipients awarded bursaries and grants	Cynthia Forlini
7	Appointment of President of AABHL	Bernadette Richards
7.1	Appointment of New Board Members	Bernadette Richards
8	JBI	Michael Ashby
9	Any other business	Bernadette Richards

## **Minutes of AGM 2023**

**In attendance (in person)** – Bernadette Richards (President), Neil Pickering (Vice-President), Wendy Lipworth, Cynthia Forlini (Treasurer), Michaela Okninski (Secretary), Andrew Crowden, Simon Walker, Bek McWhirter, Tess Whitton, Mel Drinkwater, Sara Attinger, Jindalae Skerman, Dominique Matin, Karel Caals, Serene Ong, Ryan Friets, Mal Parker, Ian Kerridge, Andrew Pope, Owen Schaefer, Tamra Laysaght, Belinda Bennett, Sam Roach, Megan Prictor, Nathan Emmerich, Tamara Browne, Mike Lang, Monique Jonas, Ehsan Shamsi Gooshki, Michael Chapman, Edwina Light, Ben Gray, Ainsley Newson, Marco Rizzi, Nina Roxburgh, Kanisha Shah.

**Proxies** - Nil

**In attendance (virtual)** – Katharina Rochmann, Jackie Leach-Scully, Linda Sheahan.

**Apology** – Caroline Ong

### **1. Welcome**

Meeting opened at 5:12pm by Bernadette and attendance and apologies were noted. Bernadette acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land in which we are gathered.

Bernadette commemorated Miles Little and invited Ainsley to speak about the passing of a truly remarkable person. Miles was a highly revered member of the AABHL Community. His accomplishments and impact on health research and bioethics were acknowledged, especially his efforts in establishing Sydney Health Ethics and his astounding contribution to academia and society.

It was noted that there was a symposium on Miles in the JBI, Ainsley encouraged members to read it. Bernadette thanked Ainsley for her beautiful words and commemoration.

### **2. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Bernadette noted that there were some issues concerning recording of attendance at the 2022 AGM in Hobart and invited members in person and online to check whether their attendance at the 2022 AGM has been accurately recorded.

Bernadette mentioned that the quorum for the 2022 AGM was met so there were no concerns regarding any resolutions that were passed at the meeting. An attendance sheet was circulated to members to confirm, and amend if necessary, their attendance. Michaela has a record of this and has updated the 2022 AGM Minutes.

After this issue was remedied, the Minutes of 2022 AGM were moved by Bek Mcwhirter and seconded by Tamra Lysaght.

### **3. Conference 2023 update**

Sam was invited to speak noting that the conference was progressing smoothly and he had received positive feedback from delegates. It was noted that there were 260 registrations, making this the largest AABHL conference in recent history.

### **4. AABHL streams update**

Stream leaders were invited to speak. It was however noted that some were absent likely due to scheduling conflicts with AABHL Conference events.

#### **Health Law Stream**

- Megan Pictor spoke for the Health Law Stream, noting that Tess Whitton was an apology. It was noted that the lunchtime Health law event was well attended – 25 attendees – and that the Health Law Stream Social Event held on Monday night went well. There are currently 60 members on the list serve for the stream.

#### **Clinical Ethics**

- Nathan Emmerich: Nathan observed that the lunch event was well attended and that he has plans to develop the stream over the coming year and will update the Committee next year concerning progress. He also established a mail list and invited members to join.

#### **Public Health - Absent**

#### **Empirical Ethics - Absent**

#### **Students/ECR - Absent**

Stream leaders were thanked for their hard work and dedication to AABHL and for fostering collaboration and a sense of community with like-minded researchers.

### **5. Strategy for Streams going forward**

- Bernadette noted that it was important to invest in the AABHL streams and to provide them with funding moving forward as a way to build active involvement in AABHL. This will be a focus of discussion for the Board in 2024.

### **6. Stream vacancies**

- It was noted that some streams were vacant and it is important to fill these vacancies to build AABHL's profile and support others working in these areas.
- Vacancy - Teaching ethics vacant
- Vacancy - Research and Innovation Stream

### **7. Finance and Membership Report**

- Cynthia was invited to speak as treasurer and provide an update on financial position of AABHL and membership. \$40, 313 held in account – these funds were predominantly received via memberships. Regarding expenditure, the biggest expense was paying for admin (secretariat), which was followed by conference bursaries/support.
- Cynthia reported that currently there were 114 individual members (inc. 5 honorary/life members and 11 students/unwaged) and 9 institutional memberships (3 x large; 2 x medium and 4 x small). Tamra asked Cynthia about institutional membership and the number of institutional memberships, and there were approximately an additional 100

members who hold a membership through an institution. There was some discussion concerning issues with the unlimited 20+ Institutional Membership category and the need revisit this category. Ainsley noted that SHE had an unlimited membership and this was perhaps not the best approach to this. There is a need for the Committee to amend procedures to accurately record and set out guidelines pertaining to recording members who hold a membership via an institution. This was noted as an action item for 2024.

**8. Recipients awarded bursaries and grants**

- Cynthia noted that all applications for conference bursaries were awarded, with a total of \$3600 of funding provided. However, 2 carer bursaries awarded will need to be recalled as those delegates could not attend.

**9. President’s report**

- Bernadette noted that AABHL has experienced a few difficult years and there have been some important changes and challenges, acknowledging that the organization is moving forward and progressing through hard work of streams Furthermore, with amendment to institutional memberships, AABHL will continue to progress and grow.
- As AABHL is growing, it was noted that as an organisation, we would need to consider the fee structure, especially for institutional membership as this has not been reviewed for some time. Further to this, it was raised that AABHL needs to work on methods to attract members.
- In relation to Committee meetings, it was reported that the Committee/Board had held 4 meetings the past year.
- Bernadette noted that she is stepping down as President of AABHL and stepping down from the board altogether.

**10. Appointment of President**

- Bernadette accepted the Nomination of Professor Wendy Lipworth as President as of 23 November 9am.
- Membership endorsed Wendy’s appointment.

Position	Delegate	Endorsed By
President	Wendy Lipworth	Bernadette Richards Ian Kerridge

**11. Appointment of New Board Members**

- Marco Rizzo and Nina Roxburgh nominations for the AABHL Committee were endorsed. The membership accepted their nominations and they were welcomed as part of the AABHL Committee.

Position	Delegate	Endorsed By
----------	----------	-------------

AABHL Board/Committee	Dr Marco Rizzi	Bernadette Richards Michaela Okninski
AABHL Board/Committee	Nina Roxburgh	Bernadette Richards K.S.

## 12. JBI

- Bernadette asked members to review articles at every opportunity. It was reported that the JBI is growing in popularity and international reputation and its Impact factor is now 2.5. Members were invited to express interest to sit on the Editorial Board

## 13. Any other business

- Ben Gray – Ben sent thanks and appreciation to Bernadette. The Committee all agreed and expressed their thanks.
- One member asked whether AABHL does anything to promote its profile throughout the year? Are there any events? Bernadette noted that the streams are the predominant way AABHL communicates with its members. It was recommended that a coordinated response to events by the streams would be beneficial. The membership were supportive of this. Committee members were reassured that funding and development of the streams and stream events were being visited next year by the Board. Ian was supportive of this point, adding that there is space to expand the reach of AABHL so that its profile is increased. Nathan added that there is scope to chat to the HREC's or clinical ethics to promote AABHL to them and as a way to increase membership base. Public Health Networks and GPs may be a good client base. It was also suggested that AABHL run courses targeting Clinical Ethics and HREC's, however, it was noted that this may be challenging as AABHL is a not-for-profit organisation. It was also highlighted that this may be challenging as there would be educational and logistical hurdles to navigate.

## 14. Close

- Meeting was closed at 5:45pm.