



Meeting of the SOM Council 11th December 2019 11-1.15pm

1. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves; present at the meeting:

Dr Richard Taylor (chair), Dr Will Ponsonby (WP), Dr David McLoughlin (arrived at 11.30), Professor Anne Harriss (AH), Dr Helena Nixon, Dr Vicky Mason (VM), Dr Suzy Gillibrand, Dr Sheetal Chavda, Dr Kerry Freer

Staff: Nick Pahl (NP), Sujal Naik

In attendance: Christine Poulter, Dr Claire Fernandes

Apologies for absence: Dr Lanre Ogunyemi, Dr Benita McCarthy, Dr Tony Mawson, Dr Danny Wong

2. Declarations of conflict of interest and note of Nolan Principles

none recorded

3. Minutes of the Council 2019 and Board September 2019 - Doc 1 Doc 1a All actions cleared. Minutes accepted and approved

For Review

4. Strategy update – Doc 2 - for approval

This was approved by Council

5. SOM/ FOM Conference schedule – Doc 3

WP updated that all was going well with conference planning, with great assistance from the Scottish group. WP confirmed that Professor Sir Harry Burns, Dr Ivan Ivanov and Dr Alasdair Emslie were all invited to speak at the conference in June.

6. SOM CESR support group lead– Dr Clare Fernandes – Doc 4

Dr Fernandes stated:

- A way forward is to increase membership numbers from CESR group trainees
- Partnership is occurring with Dr Jon Spiro representing the FOM and Dr Nicky Cordell

WP stated SOM should ensure help for CESR trainees on their journey. DM commented that it was important to keep FOM in the loop

7. Documents:

- **SOM OH technician group - escalation criteria/ code of conduct / career pathway - Doc 5i, ii, iii**

NP updated that there was a SOM technician's group of around 100. Council were asked to review documents regarding (i) escalation criteria and (ii) code of conduct and career path. A discussion the ensued around technicians joining SOM, and their potential regulation.

ACTION: SOM to explore a group offer with discounted membership at associate level for technicians.

Council confirmed escalation criteria was a 'guidance document' as opposed to a 'code of practice'

- **What should be in an OH report to management? – draft for comment Doc 6**

Council members were encouraged to review and comment on the document. They agreed the report should be concise, focused and relevant. VM commented that clarification was required on the 'consent' element in the document

ACTION: NP to make relevant changes to the report and send this to Kerry to review and endorse on behalf of Council.

- **HAVS special interest group guidance document – Doc 6i**

Council agreed that the HAVS Special Interest Group was to be credited with producing very useful guidance. Council signed off the guidance and asked for FOM to be informed as to whether they would support its use".

- 8. **Online CPD on SOM members website – <http://213.52.130.167:8081/> Dr Julian Eyears – suggested editor. Request for author content support**

ACTION: Council thanks Dr Eyears for this excellent work and endorsed the decision for Dr Kaveh Asanati, chair of the SOM education panel, to continue to oversee Dr Julian Eyears work on this.

- 9. **CEO report - Doc 7**

NP confirmed membership numbers had increased this year, but not significantly. Council members acknowledged that membership organisations were generally in decline.

Council commended NP and SOM staff for the move to RCP this year, and that this move raised the opportunity to get access to 'Athens' and the library at RCP. DM suggested there were further benefits to negotiate.

WP commented that SOM was likely to be 'back in balance' financially and the team were to be thanked for this.

ACTION: SOM to attend RCP careers fair in 2020, DM to attend

- 10. **Draft SOM mental health of nurses' report – Professor Anne Harriss – Doc 8**

AH ran through the main features of the report, for which she is acting as an advisor. Council thanked AH and agreed SOM should raise awareness of this report.

- 11. **OH, GDPR code - draft attached – Doc 9**

Council agreed it was a useful document, endorsed it as a 'guidance' document and not a code of practice that SOM would regulate.

12. Occupational Medicine and Education Panel meeting minutes – Doc 10, 10i

WP confirmed Dr Steve Nimmo's editorial role on the Journal was progressing well, although there are ongoing production timing and quality issues with OUP, that are being discussed.

WP asked if issues around 'open access' would impact on SOM revenues. NP commented that profits from the Journal are not likely to increase and a key change might be after the OUP contract renewal which would be occurring in 2022. NP suggested one focus should be on increasing submissions to the Journal to mitigate open access issues by creating an open access sister publication

Discussion

13. Future of OH profession – the role of regional groups - Doc 11

VM suggested other organisations 'endorse' this document formally to show a united front, with SOM leading the way.

14. Council Chair from July 2020

Dr Rick Taylor is looking to step down as Chair of Council. WP thanked Rick for all his work to date. Nominations were requested for Chair. VM expressed an interest

ACTION: WP to contact regional group Chairs' for any expression of interest

15. AOB and Date of next meeting – 8th June – Edinburgh

Dr Alasdair Emslie's email query was read out to Council, on fabricated illness and reporting to GMC.

ACTION: Reply regarding the GMC wellbeing review and liaise with FOM regarding the other issues.

VM asked Council if regional AGM's can be moved to a different time of the year, with the Treasurer's report circulated in advance? Council confirmed there was no objection to this.

ACTION: Regional Chair's to circulate intentions to change reporting AGM dates to Ann Caluori. Ann to communicate and circulate relevant date changes to Council members.

VM asked how SOM members were allocated to regional groups? NP confirmed members can be affiliated to more than one regional group.

ACTION: All queries were to be sent to NP/Ann Caluori for review. All communication on regional group activities to be sent out in the E news.

Meeting ended at 1.15 pm – Date of next meeting 8th June Edinburgh