

SARAA BGM, 12 March 2015, Lagoon Beach Hotel, Cape Town

Agenda

- 1) Welcome – SARAA president Dr Cathy Spargo

Dear Members

I would like to welcome you to this BGM, to Cape Town and to the congress, the theme of which is **Unity in Rheumatology, 2015**.

I can hardly believe that two years ago we were meeting in Durban when I was elected as President. The time has flown by. There are a number of things that stand out for me – unexpected challenges, too much to do and never enough time to achieve what needed to be done. First and foremost I must sincerely thank my EXCO without whom I do not think that I would have survived. They are notably, Asgar Kalla, Brian Sarembok, Rehana Bhorat, Helmuth Reuter, Ingrid Louw and Anne Halland, as well as Prof Chris Scott, representing paediatrics. They have always been willing to assist and to give emergency opinions as required, as well as time and wisdom and they have, in the last few months, become the congress organising committee.

- 2) Attendance / Apologies
 - a. Apologies received from Dr Anne Halland
- 3) Adoption of the **minutes** of BGM 3 April 2013
These are available for public review on the SARAA website.
- 4) Matters arising from previous minutes not addressed in main agenda
- 5) Executive reports
 - a) **President's report- Dr Cathy Spargo**

As noted in the report of Dr Pettipher, follow up on the **algorithm** for the management of RA, previously submitted to the Department of Health, has not resulted in any feedback being forthcoming, despite multiple attempts to follow up with the department of Health. As also noted previously, the advice given, by amongst others, Elsebe Klink, was to proceed with publication of the "Recommendations for the management of RA in SA". The process in which these recommendations were compiled has been previously documented. This resulted in publication of the South African **Recommendations for the Management of Rheumatoid Arthritis – an algorithm for standard of care in 2013** in the SAMJ in June 2013 (volume 103, no 8). The cited authors were Hodgkinson, Van Duuren, Pettipher and Kalla. Sincere thanks must go to these members who persevered against the odds to get this published. Quite disturbingly, this is now already two years out of date and due for revision. No comment was received from the department of health post publication.

Submission to Department of Health of motivation for biologics to be included on EDL

Within one month of taking over the presidency, there was an urgent deadline for submission to the Department of Health by the beginning of May for the motivation for biologics to

be included on the EDL. This was duly submitted on time, with the information that could be gathered at short notice and acknowledged with the following feedback:

“The South African pharmacoeconomic study is:

1) outdated,

2) sponsored by the supplier and does not comply with the pharmacoeconomic guidelines that the DOH has published.

Do you have any other supporting evidence regarding cost? Preference is given to information that is unbiased and objective.

In terms of the other information we will engage with you in terms of our interpretation, suffice to say that the critical appraisal of the PE study will be carried out in accordance with the official guidelines”

(Gavin Steel: email communication 07 June 2013)

No further feedback in any form has been forthcoming in this regard.

No information was forthcoming about the possibility of submitting more information at a later date, should this become available.

Meeting with Discovery Health

In 2014, a meeting was held with Discovery Health, and attended by Dr Anne Halland, Dr Elsa van Duuren and myself, as well as by Dr Adri Kok representing the General Physicians. Discovery is not currently negotiable in terms of better reimbursement for Rheumatology consulting fees. As they described the model from their side, there is a fixed pie allocated to Rheumatology and unless we can show them a viable model, where we as a cohesive group of Rheumatologists would save them money, then they will not improve the reimbursement of consulting fees for Rheumatologists.

They were however, willing to, in the long term, consider the role of nurse practitioners and also to make Arava more easily available, without special motivation.

We were also able to convince them to continue paying SARAA the full R20 000 per month for biologic application review carried out by the panel, whereas they had wanted to reduce this amount and limit the number of applications reviewed by the panel.

a. Membership

Review of the current SARAA membership shows that the current members as recorded by the E2 mailing list is as follows:

124 members

2 administrative

80 full

31 associate

5 international full members

6 life members

Of concern is that there are large number of members whose membership fees are not up to date.

Congratulations must go to Chris Scott who is now Associate Professor in the Department of Paediatrics and to Patrick Dessein, who was made a full honorary research professor within the last two years.

One of the main problems facing SARAA remains the size of the organisation and the limited numbers of people available to run the organisation, given the labour intensiveness of the biologics portfolio in its various components.

- c) Finances – Prof Helmuth Reuter
- d) Biologics Registry and TB Study – Dr Clive Pettipher
- e) SARAA website
 - i. George Dempster has recently made some suggestions about updating the SARAA website which has remained unchanged for some time. He has done this for a number of other societies. We need to get a quote from him in this regard and it would take approximately one week to build. Feedback regarding his ideas was given to him by the SARAA EXCO and the new EXCO would need to carry this matter forward.

6) Biologics

- a) Biologics Panel – Dr Elsa Van Duuren
- ~~b)~~ Published guidelines – SAMJ
- c) TB screening and treatment guidelines in Biologic patients – Dr Ingrid Louw

7) Training and SARAA sponsorships

- a. Registrars
 - i. Since the last BGM there have been 11 fellows who have passed their exams
 - ii. The SARAA EXCO continues to review and sponsor Fellows for the EULAR Rheumatology course if they submit adequate motivation and commitment.

Two fellows have received this funding in the last two years to the value of R20 000 each.

b. Nurses

- i. The Rain Project was inaugurated in 2014 and there was a very successful training weekend where 25 nurses attended and were trained. The project is ongoing with the plan being that the involved nurses will start managing patients in their respective practices. There will be feedback from Dr Hodgkinson at the next BGM

c. Other

- i. The blueprint for the Rheumatology exams may be found at: <https://quip.com/SXoQA3lcaQVL>. Professor Tikly has handed over the subspecialty representation to the College of Physicians to Dr Neeta Patel.
- ii. I would like to formally thank Professor Tikly for his work in this regard and thank Dr Patel for her willingness to take over this responsibility. Professor Tikly ended his term by reviewing the blueprint and requested input of the syllabus and curriculum.

d) Other

Dr David Gotlieb

9) Current congress

The current congress has been arranged by E-volve under the aegis of Dean Krawitz and Nicky McGrath. They have done an excellent job of arranging the congress with the current EXCO and with additional help from Margie Phillips and Chris Scott and additional funding help from the Arthritis Foundation. The calibre of the speakers is really extremely high for a local congress and many of the companies have expressed an interest in supporting the congress rather than sending a select few doctors to EULAR and hence opening the channels for greater opportunity for a larger number of people to listen to speakers of this level of expertise. There have also been a number of very good submissions of oral and poster abstracts from local members.

10) Election of new president

The nominated candidates are Prof Mahmood Ally and Dr Ahmed Ally

11) Next SARAA congress

12) Close and thanks

Agenda – attached

- 1) Welcome
- 2) The attendance register is attached
The minutes of the previous minutes of the BGM were adopted (Dr Jenny Potts)
- 3) Finances:
 - a. Sponsorship of Fellows should be considered at all SARAA congresses and a formal policy should be put in place for this
 - b. The SARAA Tax free status was congratulated by Prof Mody
 - c. There was some deliberation about the concept of ensuring an excellent SARAA congress in terms of scientific input versus seeing the congress as an income generating revenue source for SARAA
 - d. AFLAR congress profits should be split so that SARAA receives half of the profits when AFLAR/SARAA congresses are combined
 - e. It was noted that all operating costs for SARAA are in Gauteng
 - f. The bad debt was related to membership fees
 - g. Separate budgets should be made available for specific projects e.g. TB studies
- 4) EXCO: a suggestion was made that where possible there should be some continuity of EXCO portfolios
- 5) Registry: It was noted that Tumi Matona (from E2 Solutions) would assist Shelly Traub in order to try and streamline the process.
- 6) Dr David Gotlieb noted that medical aids were not always paying for liver function tests etc. as required for monitoring of Methotrexate and that we should motivate to the medical aids to fully reimburse this.
He also raised concern about the ongoing care of clinical trial patients once the particular trial that they were on was completed.

Cathy Spargo

Attendance Register



Full Name (Please print)	HCPSA Number	Email Address	Tel / Mobile Number	Signature
David Loticks	MP 0245810	ddoc@africa.com	011 7976699	
Brian Salembek	MP 0183649	bb@iafrica.com	081-4122450	
ESA van Duuren	MP 0282231	esdura@emnet.co.za	0824925955	
FARU KHATIB	MP 0302180	dkhathib@global.co.za	082493463	
Alfred Toffmeyer Toffmeyer Gaston van Rensburg	MP 0417114	johan.vr@gyned.com	0820606149	
DONALD NELAN	MP 0224895	dub@esun.co.za	082-6461025	

Attendance Register

Full Name (Please print)	HCPSA Number	Email Address	Tel / Mobile Number	Signature
C. SFRGO	MP 0387525	spangoc@rheumatologists.co.za	0828971304	Spert.
Arrenette de laHoupe	MP 0218197.	adlh@icon.co.za	082 926 8012 083 365 6036	Arrenette
De Jange van Renburg	MP 0368059 0368051	christa.j.vanrenburg@up.ac.za		
Muhammad Nury	MP 0224057	mhammed.tiky@uith.ac.za	0833242842	
GAIL FALLER	MP0400416	gail.faller@iburst.co.za	0826590257 083	gail
Cleandina Ickinger	MP0450804	ickinger@wols.co.za	0827846800	Ickinger

Attendance Register

Full Name (Please print)	HCPSA Number	Email Address	Tel / Mobile Number	Signature
Neta Patel	0399140	pateln2@ukzn.ac.za	0837775758	
Nimisha Govind	MP0520241	nimisha.govind@gmail.com	0873319113	
Ayesha Wodeer	MD0498743	kes-ishe@unweb.co.za	0832538701	
Kavita man	MR606277	knalcan17@gmail.com	0762765920	
Jacqueline Frost	MS0000221	frostjacqueline@gmail.com	0824588084	
Clive Pettigrew	MP0381756	cpettigrew@netactive.co.za	0877089245	
Jennifer Potts	MP0412956	jpotts@unweb.co.za	0837197066	
I. C. Louw	0280135	rheumadecid@unweb.co.za	0824555566	
H Reuter	305740	helmut@unweb.co.za	0837274650	

[illegible]