

**WA Health Translation Network  
Management Committee Meeting No. 1/2019  
Minutes  
Tuesday 19 February 2019 7.30am to 9am**

**Location: Centre for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation (CERI) Workshop Room, Level 1, 22 Stirling Highway, Nedlands, WA 6009**

**Zoom Meeting dial in details: <https://uwa.zoom.us/j/885704192>**

**Attendees**

***Representative Members:***

Chair: Professor Gary Geelhoed, Executive Director WAHTN

Curtin University: Professor Torbjorn Falkmer (by zoom)

Department of Health: Darren Gibson (by zoom)

Director of Research, Child and Adolescent Health Service: Professor Peter Richmond

Director of Research, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital: Dr Aron Chakera

Edith Cowan University: Professor Rob Newton (by zoom)

King Edward Memorial Hospital and University of Western Australia: Professor Jeffrey Keelan

Mental Health Representative: Professor Vera Morgan

Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science: Professor Samar Aoun

Telethon Kids Institute and Aboriginal Health Representative: Mr Glenn Pearson

***Staff:***

Clinical Trials and Data Centre: Professor Peter Thompson

Consumer and Community Health Research Network: Ms Debra Langridge

Research Education and Training Program: Dr Rashmi Watson

WAHTN Executive Officer: Dr Tanya Tuffrey

WAHTN Chief Operating Officer: Dr Debbie Turner

***Invited Guests:***

Commercialisation Representative: Assoc Professor Kevin Pflieger

***Observers:***

Brightwater: Dr Angelita Martini

Centre for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation: Dr Carolyn Williams

**Apologies**

Sandra Bellekom; Daniel Fatovich; Amanda Samanek; Kevin Cass-Ryall; Steve Wilton; Steve Webb; Jim Codde; Wendy Erber; Katherine Coltrona; Michael Winlo; Peter Leedman; Janet Zagari; David Morrison; Bill Morgan; James Flexman; Norman Palmer; George Yeoh; Catherine Elliott

**1. Welcome**

The Chair welcomed members to this meeting.

## **2. Declarations of potential or perceived conflicts of interest**

None

## **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2018**

It was **RESOLVED (1/2019)**

Members were asked to confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Management Committee of 4 December 2018 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

## **4. Business Arising**

The Executive Director provided an update on the Action Items from 4 December 2018 as outlined in the Action Items Table (Attachment 2).

## **5. Executive Director's Report**

The Executive Director provided a verbal update on:

- Guardianship and Administration Act 1990. This is still under legal review.
- Science on the Swan 2019. This will take place on 5-7 June 2019, with Michael Mosely as the keynote speaker. A commercialisation workshop will be held during the conference, help is needed to program the structure of the workshop – ACTION ITEM – WAHTN Executive Director to contact Carolyn Williams and Kevin Pflieger.
- Medical Imaging Working Group. A meeting has been organised for 20 February. The meeting will discuss the strategy of how to match the Commonwealth Funding which has been allocated. To date, UWA and ECU have committed funds to this.

## **6. Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA)**

The Chair provided a verbal update on:

- 6.1 Consumer and Community Involvement in Research (CCI) Project. A report on AHRA's CCI activities for 2018 was circulated with the meeting papers. It was noted that the new 2018-2020 Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) priorities include a priority on Consumer Driven Research.
- 6.2 Indigenous Health Researcher Capacity Building Network. A workshop was held in Adelaide on 14 February 2019. The workshop discussed the nation-wide survey which was conducted in 2018, and highlighted the strength and capacity in the Aboriginal research space. A copy of the workshop report has been prepared and will be placed on the WAHTN website. There was a query as to whether Minister Cook could be approached to use state funding to match MRFF funding in this area. WA has over 230 remote communities which could have an impact, and work done here would be distinct from the work being done in the eastern states.
- 6.3 Wound Care initiative. This initiative is a collaborative project between WAHTN and the Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners. A project plan is currently being drafted for work to be undertaken in 2019. Ms Jo Wilkie has been employed by WAHTN to undertake this and the CCI national collaborative projects.

- 6.4 Driven Healthcare Improvement initiative. The summary of 2018 work undertaken through this initiative is being compiled and will be shared on the WAHTN website as soon as it is made available.
- 6.5 Health Systems Improvement and Sustainability initiative. The summary of 2018 work undertaken through this initiative is being compiled and will be shared on the WAHTN website as soon as it is made available.
- 6.6 Clinical Research Facilitation Platform. There is an ongoing conversation between AHRA and the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance, ACTA, to put together a proposal to attract \$50M over 5 years to support clinical trials throughout Australia. In WA, there is the Clinical Trials and Data Centre, and mention was made about the data science hub. There was a query as to whether Chris Reid is in touch with Liz Dallimore.

## **7. Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)**

The Chair provided a verbal update on:

- 7.1 MRFF *Rapid Applied Research Translation* Grant Round 1 project update. The Final Report was submitted to MRFF on 15 December 2018. The Financial acquittal is due 15 March 2019.
- 7.2 Applications for Round 3 are due 19 April. The funding for this round can be spent over two years from 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2021. \$3M has been set aside to fund hospital-based translational research in the area health services, as well as projects from PathWest, WA Primary Health Alliance, WAPHA, and the private hospitals. George Yeoh will be the chair of the selection panel which is scheduled to meet on 16 April 2019.
- 7.3 The Executive Director raised with the committee the Board's support to approach partners for funds to employ a dedicated position in WAHTN to keep abreast of potential funding opportunities, particularly MRFF, and to support WA researchers in pulling together collaborative bids in readiness for submission to Commonwealth funding initiatives. While members of the Management Committee gave in principle support to raising WA's profile and increasing the potential for WA researchers to access Commonwealth funds, members raised concerns about seeking additional funds for the position over and above the partnership funds they are already committed to.

## **8. WAHTN Strategic Plan**

A draft strategic plan is under development. The WAHTN Executive Board will workshop the draft plan in late April.

## **9. Enabling Platforms**

Updates were provided on:

- 9.1 Research & Education Training Program, RETP: A new funding agreement with Department of Health has been signed to cover the period from Jan 2019 – June 2019. The latest funding will support the RETP program to develop further online modules, including a module covering the

Research Governance System (RGS). Other activities undertaken by the RETP team include conducting six workshops across three sites in mid-February and the development of a new module on conducting research with people who experience mental health issues.

- 9.2 Consumer and Community Health Research Network, CCHR: Ms Debra Langridge has been appointed as the new head of CCHR. The Management Committee agreed the Chair would write to Anne McKenzie to thank her (ACTION ITEM). WAHTN, with CCHR, is preparing a new funding application to Lotterywest. A sustainable framework is being developed and will also look at the community to include aspects such as Aboriginal health, mental health and public well-being. CCHR is also exploring the possibility of getting Consumer Advocates into more partner organisations across WAHTN.
- 9.3 Clinical Trials Data Centre (CTDC): A new Biostatistician service is being developed to address the longstanding lack of biostatisticians in WA, and the inability of researchers to access biostatistician help. As Biostatisticians are in short supply in WA, this has implications for incorporating good statistical advice into research projects from start to finish. Such services are often expensive and therefore not accessible to younger researchers. Prof Peter Thompson in conjunction with CTDC is exploring the development of a service to provide biostatistician help to WA researchers. This service will utilise young biostatisticians, who will do most of the coalface work, with oversight by a senior biostatistician. This will assist researchers and will provide a workforce development approach to young biostatisticians in WA. The cost for the service will need to cover the costs of both the junior and senior biostatisticians and is estimated to be \$120,000 pa for 3 years. WAHTN is exploring ways to fund the program, MRFF funding may be a possible mechanism.

In order to capture research in a good database, the internationally accepted REDCap software will be used. It is hoped REDCap will become the standard being used in WA. This program will be administered through CTDC, and Helen Atkinson will provide REDCap support. This service will be promoted actively online and through WAHTN networks. There was a query about whether Child and Adolescent Health Service, CAHS, and North Metro Health Service, NMHS are able to use REDCap. ACTION ITEM: Peter Thompson to follow this issue up with Helen Atkinson.

The funding model still needs developing and guidelines around authorship will need to be drawn up. WA senior biostatisticians have been meeting in regards to this project and other issues. The following biostatisticians have been consulted to date: Kevin Murray, Julie Marsh, and Richard Parson. The committee was asked if there were any others who should be included – ACTION ITEM – Circulate the names of those already involved for feedback.

- 9.4 Biobanking.  
A background on the work done in 2018 was provided by Dr Aron Chakera. At last year's workshop, discussion was held around the need for guidelines to be drawn up so that there is consistency in structure and procedures regardless of sample type. As a result of the workshop, six key themes were identified and a working group assigned to each one. Working groups were asked to submit a 'project on a page' summary addressing issues relating to these themes to

Aron Chakera by 1 May 2019. The themes include: funding, governance, ethics, quality assurance and data management.

9.5 Health Economics.

A symposium and round table will be held at Forrest Hall with David Bloom (Harvard University) on 27 and 28 February. It was suggested that a similar model to that being explored for biostatisticians might be applicable for Health Economics.

9.6 Ethics and Governance.

WAHTN attended the Ethics and Governance meeting on 18 February. The meeting was chaired by Child and Adolescent Health Service and attended by ethics and governance administrators from WAHTN, Department of Health WA, North Metro Health Service, South Metro Health Service, East Metro Health Service, WA Country Health Service. The terms of reference and focus were established for future meetings, with value placed on collaboration and reporting of outcomes to the Directors of Research. The value of WAHTN's attendance was agreed on consensus. Positive work efficiencies were highlighted, and opportunities for improvement were identified and targeted for future meetings. The focus of the next meeting will be on safety reporting and sharing of resources.

9.7 Allied Health Platform.

Not discussed.

**10. Lotterywest and Healthway Community Investment Framework**

Presentation deferred to April meeting.

**11. Other Business**

Partner members were asked to inform colleagues of the upcoming event:

- 'Science on the Swan 2019: Neurosciences & The Senses – Healthy Ageing across the Life Course', 5-7 June 2019: <https://scienceontheswan.com.au/>  
<http://createsend.com/t/y-DD42F9FA981AE8EA>
- The WAHTN Executive Director suggested that it would be valuable to have a talk and workshop where Jeremy Nicolson could speak to interested WAHTN researchers about the Australian National Phenome Centre (ANPC) and the potential for intersection and collaborative projects across WAHTN partners. The ANPC is one of WAHTN's platforms and a great example of collaboration in WA. The original funding was sourced from the Department of Health, the Australian Research Council and contributions from the universities. The Centre has recently received \$10M from the Commonwealth by Minister Hunt. ACTION ITEM: WAHTN to set up a meeting/presentation with Jeremy Nicholson so that collaborative opportunities may be explored.

(Note – a cohort of Biostatisticians have followed Jeremy Nicholson and Elaine Holmes to Perth – they should be approached for the Biostatisticians service described above).

This opened a discussion about the opportunity to investigate other “omics”, and that perhaps there needed to be thought into how to pull all of them into a larger bid, perhaps to MRFF.

**Next Meeting:**

Next Scheduled Management Committee meeting is as follows:  
9 April 2019 7.30am-9.00am.