

**WA Health Translation Network
Management Committee Meeting No. 5/2018
Minutes
Tuesday 18 June 2019 7.30am to 9am**

Location: Harry Perkins Institute, Seminar Room G24, 6 Verdun Street, Nedlands

Attendees

Representative Members:

A/Chair: Professor Peter Thompson, Deputy Director WAHTN

Curtin University: Professor Torbjorn Falkmer

Edith Cowan University: Professor Rob Newton

Institute for Respiratory Health and UWA: Professor Geoff Stewart

The University of Notre Dame Australia: Professor Jim Codde

The University of Western Australia: Professor Osvaldo Almeida

Associates:

WA Primary Health Alliance: Dr Christina Read

Platforms:

Commercialisation Representative: Associate Professor Kevin Pflieger

Mental Health Representative: Assistant Professor Anna Waterreus

Staff:

WAHTN Chief Operating Officer: Dr Debbie Turner

WAHTN Executive Officer: Dr Tanya Tuffrey

WAHTN Program Coordinator: Ms Katherine Coltrona

WAHTN National Projects Manager: Ms Jo Wilkie

Apologies

Sandra Bellekom; Aron Chakera; Wendy Erber; Daniel Fatovich; Gary Geelhoed; Darren Gibson; Anita John; Chris Kane; Debra Langridge; Bill Morgan; Vera Morgan; David Morrison; Glenn Pearson; Peter Richmond; Amanda Samanek; Rashmi Watson; Carolyn Williams; Steve Wilton; Michael Winlo; Janet Zagari

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed members to this meeting and recognised the traditional owners of the land.

2. Declarations of potential or perceived conflicts of interest

None

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2019

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Management Committee of 9 April 2019 were accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting.

4. Business Arising

Business arising from the Minutes of the Management Committee meeting held 9 April 2019 was discussed within this agenda.

5. Deputy Director's Report

The Deputy Director provided a verbal update on:

- Guardianship and Administration Act 1990. The State Solicitor has noted a lack of detail on research requirements in the Act – this is under review, but for the moment all national trials for WA are still on hold.
- Science on the Swan 2019 was very successful- registration numbers were up significantly to 280 in 2019 from 120 in 2018. There has not been a wrap up meeting yet, but preliminary feedback has been very positive. Michael Mosley was a good draw for attracting registrants. Work for 2020 will need to start soon. No theme has been decided yet – Kevin Pflieger suggested “Cardiovascular Disease and Metabolic Disorders”.
- Medical Imaging Working Group. This group has been meeting regularly, and has worked out where the machines would be placed, and had a good idea of the costs. The funding was approximately \$3M short of the target for NCRIS, but an application will be submitted to Lotterywest for this shortfall. It usually takes about 4 months to hear about the application. The working party is keeping NCRIS informed of the progress.

6. Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA)

The Chair provided a verbal update on the current AHRA discussions, including:

- 6.1 Consumer and Community Initiative (CCI) Project. Phase One of this MRFF funded project was completed in 2018. That study looked at consumer and community involvement in research. The results of this study show that there is a need to embed consumer involvement in research systemically. This may need to be done through policy and legislation. Phase Two includes five sub-projects, where particular AHRA centres have the lead on a projects, and includes expertise form other centres where necessary. The CCI Project is co-led by WAHTN and Sydney Health Partners.
- 6.2 Wound care initiative. This project has followed a similar approach to the CCI project. – WAHTN is co-leading with Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners. This project is looking at a major systemic reform for wound care where the federal and state governments would reimburse the cost of would care, and in return the sector would agree to deliver wound care that is best practice, consistent and to an agreed standard.

7. Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)

The Chair provided a verbal update on the following MRFF grant and opportunities, including:

- 7.1 Application for MRFF Translational Research Grants Round 3 was submitted on 19 April 2019. The funding will be over two years, and is expected to commence 1 July 2019. \$3M has been set aside to fund Health Service focused translational research. The selection panel met on 16 April 2019, and twelve projects have been selected. Announcement of the successful recipients will occur once the funding has been approved by the Commonwealth Department of Health. It is anticipated that the outcome will be made known by the end of June

8. WAHTN Strategic Plan

Workshops have been held with the management committee and with WAHTN staff. A follow up survey is being prepared for WAHTN stakeholders. Once this survey is completed, a workshop will be run with the WAHTN Executive Board, a draft strategic plan will be then be developed and sent to the Executive Board as well as a focus group. The second draft will then be prepared for the Executive Board. It is anticipated that the strategic plan will be launched in October. The operational plan will be developed subsequent to the release of the strategic plan.

Kevin Pflieger suggested that the plan be very strong on highlighting WA; it needed to build on research strengths in WA; it needed to highlight the activity centres in the state hospitals; it would be good to develop MoUs with prestigious medical centres elsewhere e.g. ENMED centre in Texas; it needed to show the world class research being done here; supporting NHRMS and ARC near miss projects; looking at very large projects in order to be able to apply for MRCF funds; trainee and mentorship programs for commercialisations; key infrastructure – chemistry and clinical trials, imaging, wet lab incubator, early stage prototyping facilities, supporting –omics; electronic medical records and data linkage systems.

9. Enabling Platforms

An update was provided on the following WAHTN enabling platforms:

- 9.1. Research Education and Training Program (RETProgram). This program continues to do well with its online modules. Sustainability is still an issue. A joint funding application with REP from Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS) is currently being prepared for submission to Department of Health WA. This is a three year application and includes a tapering funding model aimed at sustainability.
- 9.2. Consumer and Community Health Research Network (CCHRN). This program is also looking at sustainability. CCHRN has been awarded a 12 month grant from Lotterywest to support the program during its transition to a sustainable scheme. There has been verbal agreement from the partner organisations using the CCHRN Consumer Advocate service to arrange a more equitable support arrangement for the program. This will be formalised in the upcoming weeks.
- 9.3. Clinical Trials Data Management Centre (CTDMC). The Clinical Support Services (CSS) which has been providing drop in services across the metropolitan area has been very successful. Helen Atkinson and Christine Robins have been visiting many sites and had excellent acceptance from people wanting assistance with their clinical research projects. The service offers REDCAP, ethics and governance, and general start-up advice. The Biostatistics Preceptorship plan is progressing, though the format has changed – the proposed program will now offer 2 biostatistician preceptorships, each with a junior biostatistician with a senior mentor. The

allocation of resources will be done by Helen in conjunction with CSS. It is hoped that this will be launched soon.

9.4. Health Economics.

A similar scheme to that for the Biostatistics Preceptorship program was included in the application to Lotterywest. This part of the application was not awarded funding so alternate approaches to developing the Health Economics Platform will be explored.

10. Other Business

The WA Future Health Research Innovation Fund (FHRIF). A recent forum was held by the Department of Health to explore the sectors viewpoints on priorities for the FHRIF. Members are encouraged to provide feedback to the Department of Health via the online survey (details and link provided on the WAHTN website).

Kevin Pflieger raised the issue of access to Commonwealth funding, as large dollars were available via MRFF and other funding schemes. It is very important that the health sector comes together to get both state and commonwealth government funds repurposed to health, and the brand needs to be WA. We need to make clear that we have exceptional research in WA, and need to inform people of our success stories – research from WA is world class and compares well to what is being done in Melbourne. This needs to include ALL of WA – we need to build the ecosystem well so that it becomes self-sustainable. We need to champion key areas where we are successful and should not be in competition with each other. ACTION ITEM – circulate document from Kevin Pflieger on WA Life Sciences Innovation Strategy.

Torbjorn Falkmer queried whether there would be further funding rounds for Early Career Research Fellowships (ECRFs), like there was in August 2018 under Round 2 of the WAHTN MRFF funding. To date, there is no extension of the ECRFs program planned, WAHTN will need to wait for an announcement from MRFF regarding what future funds will be awarded/available to WAHTN.

Next Meeting:

Next Scheduled Management Committee meeting is as follows:

13 August 2019 7.30am-9.00am.

Venue: CERI Workshop room, Level One, 22 Stirling Highway, Nedlands, WA 6009