

**WA Health Translation Network
Management Committee Meeting No. 2/2019
Minutes
Tuesday 9 April 2019 7.30am to 9am**

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

Attendees

Representative Members:

Chair: Professor Gary Geelhoed, Executive Director WAHTN
Curtin University: Professor Torbjorn Falkmer (by zoom)
Ear Science Institute: Ms Sandra Bellekom (by zoom)
East Metropolitan Health Service: Professor Daniel Fatovich
Edith Cowan University: Professor Rob Newton (by zoom)
Institute for Respiratory Health and UWA: Professor Geoff Stewart
Lions Eye Institute: Mr Bill Morgan
Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science: Professor Steve Wilton
Ramsay Health Care: Ms Nicola Ware (by zoom)
St John of God Hospital: Professor Steve Webb
Telethon Kids Institute and Aboriginal Health Representative: Mr Glenn Pearson (by zoom)
The University of Notre Dame Australia: Professor Jim Codde (by zoom)
WA Country Health Service: Ms Anita John

Associates:

Brightwater Acre Group: Dr Angelita Martini
Centre for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation: Dr Carolyn Williams
Genetic and Rare Disease Network (GaRDN): Ms Amanda Samanek

Platforms:

Commercialisation Representative: Associate Professor Kevin Pflieger
Consumer and Community Health Research Network: Ms Debra Langridge
Mental Health Representative: Dr Nina McCarthy
Transdisciplinary Programs Representative: Professor George Yeoh
Women's Health Representative: Winthrop Professor Jeffrey Keelan

Staff:

WAHTN Chief Operating Officer: Dr Debbie Turner
WAHTN Executive Officer: Dr Tanya Tuffrey

Apologies

Learnie Durrington; Vera Morgan; Katherine Coltrona; Wendy Erber; Janet Zagari; Michael Winlo, Peter Leedman, Aron Chakera; Professor Peter Richmond; Darren Gibson

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Declarations of potential or perceived conflicts of interest

None

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2019

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Management Committee of 19 February 2019 are a true and correct record of that meeting.

4. Business Arising

Business arising from the Minutes of the Management Committee meeting held 19 February 2019 were discussed within this agenda.

5. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director provided a verbal update:

- Guardianship and Administration Act 1990 – the Chair of the WAHTN Executive Board and Gary Geelhoed met with Wayne Martin (Chair of Harry Perkins Institute) to discuss the Guardianship Act. Researchers Daniel Fatovich and Steve Webb, along with James Williamson from Dept of Health, will attend a meeting with the Attorney General, the State Solicitor and the Minister for Health to discuss the Guardianship Act and the current impasse for many research projects.
- Science on the Swan 2019. Scheduled for 5-7 June at the Westin Hotel, Perth. An innovation commercialisation workshop will be held on the first day.
- Medical Imaging Working Group – this group is looking to match funding available through the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy for the National Imaging Facility. The funding from the Commonwealth has increased this year, and needs to be matched by state and institutional support. A meeting was held on 20 February. Following this meeting, a letter of support from various institutions and the Chief Executives of the Area Health Services was drawn up. Discussions have also been held with representatives from Lotterywest seeking support. A steering committee has been formed and will meet on 11 April.
- Associate Professor Dan McAullay has been offered and accepted the position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative on the WAHTN Executive Board.

6. Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA)

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

It was announced in the recent budget that the Advanced Health Research Translation Centres (AHRTCs) and Centres for Innovation in Regional Health (CIRHs), that collectively form AHRA, have been allocated \$218 million in funding for Rapid Applied Research Translation over ten years. This includes the \$75M which has already been received by AHRA over the past three years. There are currently seven AHRTCs and two CIRHs, however it is anticipated that new ones will be announced soon. It is anticipated that the funds allocated to WAHTN through this scheme will be approximately \$2M per year.

6.1 Consumer and Community Initiative (CCI) Project.

This is an ongoing initiative being co-led by WAHTN. A proposal has been worked up for the current round of MRFF funding and includes a number of projects which will be led by self-

nominated AHRA centres, with overall coordination from WAHTN and Sydney Health Partners. There is an opportunity for WAHTN to also lead the project on determining best practice and developing a model for measuring impact.

- 6.2 Indigenous Researcher Capacity Building Network. Work on this national initiative is continuing with the recent development of an Action Plan (see link on WAHTN website)
George Yeoh gave an update on a reconciliation plan which is being implemented by the Cancer Council in WA – this plan involves reflection, a plan and an action. An Indigenous research officer (from South Australia) has been appointed. There was a suggestion that there needs to be more co-ordination in WA on plans such as this. There was support for this initiative.
- 6.3 Wound care initiative. This initiative is co-led by WAHTN along with the Brisbane Diamantina Group. Similar to the approach under the CCI Initiative, the proposed work plan has divided the work into discrete projects with different groups (AHRA centres) talking responsibility. There is the opportunity for the work to get done quickly in this initiative, and to have significant impact. This project can achieve something practical in a short space of time, and in doing so, showcase the benefits that AHRA can bring.
- 6.4 Data Driven Health Systems initiative. Merran Smith and Gary Geelhoed were at the recent meeting of the project Steering Committee in Sydney. Peter Eastwood has stepped down as a WA representative on the committee and David Preen has agreed to take on the role. To improve communication and alignment between the national initiatives and the work being done in WA, it was suggested that a sub-committee be set up in WA.

7. Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)

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

- 7.1 MRFF *Rapid Applied Research Translation* Grant project update.
WAHTN's application for MRFF Round 3 Funding is due in Canberra 19 April 2019. The funding period will be over two years, 2019 -2021. The projects to be funded are yet to be determined, however WAHTN has allocated \$3M to fund health service led-translational research. The health service led research projects will be decided at a selection panel meeting scheduled for 16 April 2019. This follows a process whereby the area health services (AHS) will pre-select their top four applications, from which the representative selection panel will choose two per AHS for funding. A call was also sent to WAPHA, PathWest and the private hospitals, with submissions received from all of these. The projects will be funded up to \$250,000 over 2 years, with 12 projects funded in total. Announcement of the successful projects can only occur once NHMRC have reviewed the WAHTN application and approved the submission. The results will be announced by MRFF, however this may be delayed by the upcoming election process and any resulting caretaker period.

Debbie Turner commented that each of the AHRA centres ran slightly different process and funded different types of initiatives. Debbie will put together a summary across all states of how

they approached this last funding round which may be useful to inform future funding initiatives undertaken by WAHTN – ACTION ITEM.

8. WAHTN Strategic Plan

The Chair updated the Committee Members on the development of the WAHTN Strategic Plan. This process has been started, and times have been set aside for workshops with all parties – the managements committee, WAHTN staff and the WAHTN Executive Board. This process will also look at the composition of the board and management committee, and will be spearheaded by Jo Wilkie and external consultant Graham Lovelock.

It was suggested from the floor the need for stronger relationships in Canberra. George Yeoh confirmed that WA often fails to hear about calls for large grants which are being put together and suggested that WA needs to put together a dedicated team to assisting with this. It was pointed out that some eastern states based institutions have dedicated staff who focus solely on optimising MRFF and large grant opportunities, which assists with their higher grant success rate.

9. Enabling Platforms

An update was provided on the following WAHTN enabling platforms:

9.1 RETP: Trademark and re-branding.

There is a private training organisation for dental professionals which holds the RETP trademark for their course Rapid Efficient Treatment Planning. We have been advised that we are infringing on their trademark and therefore have had to cease using the acronym 'RETP' for our Research Education and Training Program. We are in the process of removing the acronym from our website and course material, having replaced it with RETProgram. The domain name will also be changed. In the short term, to meet the legal requirements, we are trying to change the name as little as possible so that the process is rapid and the program remains easily recognised. In the long term we may want to look at re-branding for WAHTN and all of the platforms. RETProgram is currently preparing four modules on the Research Governance Service (RGS) –the content is being written by Katherine Coltrona who was central to the development of RGS while at the Department of Health.

9.2 CCHRN.

An application has been submitted to Lotterywest, which includes a submission for 12 months interim funding while a business case for long term, sustainable funding is developed. If the application is successful, CCHRN will undergo review and then a plan going forward will be developed. Glenn Pearson asked that future plans include aboriginal and mental health, and how to work with those groups to strengthen ties with the community (and hopefully with more partners). There is also the possibility of working more closely with the Health Consumer Council.

9.3 Clinical trials Data Management Centre (CTDMC).

- 9.4 Biobanking. There is a general feeling that this can be more collaborative and cooperative. There is good attendance at meetings, and sub-committees has been set up including one looking at governance and data.
- 9.5 Health Economics. Professor David Bloom, a prominent economist who has interests in health economics, recently conducted meetings, seminars and a workshop in Perth as part of an initiative funded through the Mindaroo group and Telethon Kids Institute. The workshop was very successful and ongoing talks are occurring on how WAHTN may help to develop this important group
- 9.6 Ethics and Governance. Before the recent change to autonomous AHSs, the Department of Health held regular meetings with wide representation on Ethics and Governance. These regular meetings have now been reinstated with WAHTN represented with a view to standardising processes as much as possible.
- 9.7 Allied Health Platform. This group has commenced regular meetings under the umbrella of the WAHTN. The platform meet quarterly and the meetings are chaired by Torbjorn Falkmer. The Insurance Commission has released a new funding stream that may be of interest for allied health researchers. Details can be found on the WAHTN website.

10. Lotterywest and Healthway Community Investment Framework

Presentation by Lotterywest – deferred to a later meeting.

11. Other Business

When AHRTCs were created there was no template for how they should be set up, but they include institutions, universities, hospitals, support platforms and clinical streams. Each of the AHRTCs have taken different approaches for their funding e.g. SPHERE gets 0.05% of turnover of their partners. WAHTN has not supported clinical streams as strongly as some of the other AHRTCs.

In line with enhancing our clinical streams, it may be beneficial for WAHTN to formalise a cardiovascular stream – there are two main groups in WA, so it may be worth exploring whether minimal resources need to be put aside for this for admin support. It was recently announced that there is \$122M in MRFF funding in this area.

George Yeoh – MRFF has \$150M committed over 10 years for the new Australian stem cell therapies initiative. George wanted to acknowledge the assistance that WAHTN (and the Chief Scientist, Peter Klinken) gave in assisting George Yeoh's group being part of this bid, and reinforced the need for groups to come together to attract funds such as this.

Although there have been many long term funding announcements recently, there are always concerns about funding which is awarded for 10 years, well beyond usual government commitments. It is unlikely that all of the contracts for these announcements will be signed before the elections.

Clinical streams are very important and WAHTN needs to assist with the integration as clinicians tend to coalesce around their speciality. There are many highly successful networks which already exist, and so WAHTN can create links to those networks, but also look at what else can be done to integrate and support

them. Through MRFF with ACTA support, new networks can be started, such as in the areas of mental health, primary care, indigenous health, and rural and remote health. National breadth is necessary to get solutions.

Dr Michael May, CEO of CCRN (Canada) will be holding a workshop on 23 May where ideas can be discussed, and will also be attending a meeting with Darren Gibson and James Williamson.

Plans are being out together for Jeremy Nicholson give a technical presentation to WAHTN researchers so that possible collaborative interest may be found.

Partner members are 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/>

Next Meeting:

Next Scheduled Management Committee meeting is as follows:

18 June 2019 7.30am-9.00am.

Venue: G24, Harry Perkins North Building