

**WA Health Translation Network
Management Committee Meeting No. 01/2020
Minutes
Tuesday 4 February 2020, 7.30am to 9am**

Location: Harry Perkins Institute, Meeting Room 272 Nedlands, WA 6009

Zoom Meeting: <https://uwa.zoom.us/j/219327674>

Attendees

Representative Members:

Chair: Professor Gary Geelhoed, Executive Director WAHTN

Child and Adolescent Health Service: Professor Peter Richmond

Curtin University: Professor Torbjorn Falkmer

East Metropolitan Health Service: Professor Daniel Fatovich

Edith Cowan University: Professor Rob Newton

Institute for Respiratory Health and UWA: Professor Geoff Stewart

Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science: Professor Steve Wilton

Telethon Kids Institute and Aboriginal Health Representative: Mr Glenn Pearson

WA Country Health Service: Mr Justin Manuel

Associates:

Platforms:

Clinical Trials and Data Management Centre: Professor Peter Thompson

Commercialisation Representative: Associate Professor Kevin Pflieger

Mental Health Representative: Dr Bharti Morar

Women's Health Representative: Winthrop Professor Jeffrey Keelan

Staff:

WAHTN Chief Operating Officer: Dr Debbie Turner

WAHTN Executive Officer: Ms Lauren White

Apologies

Dr Darren Gibson, Ms Sandra Bellekom, Ms Emma Stone, Mr Bill Morgan, Professor David Morrison, Dr Aron Chakera, Dr James Flexman, Ms Nicola Ware, Ms Janet Zagari, Professor Steve Webb, Professor Osvaldo Almeida, Dr Angelita Martini, Mr Alan James, Dr Carolyn Williams, Ms Amanda Samanek, Dr Chris Kane, Professor Catherine Elliott, Ms Debra Langridge, Professor Vera Morgan, Professor George Yeoh, Ms Jo Wilkie, Ms Katherine Coltrona.

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 3 December 2019

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Management Committee of 3 December 2019 were confirmed.

4. Business Arising

No business arising.

5. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director provided a verbal update, which incorporated the following items:

- *Science on the Swan*

Planning for the 2020 Conference is currently on track. Organising Committee Meetings are being held monthly. The 9 centres that make up the Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA) will have a face to face meeting following SOTS 2020 with many of the AHRA Directors taking part in SOTS 2020.

The Minister for Health, The Hon Roger Cook MLA is opening the conference.

Link to current program can be found here: <https://scienceontheswan.com.au/program/>

- *Medical Imaging Working Group*

Sufficient matched funding for the current National Imaging Facility (NIF) infrastructure, located in WA, has been confirmed to access Commonwealth funds. The equipment will be utilised exclusively for research purposes with the MRI to be located in the Perron Institute and PET on QEII campus (E Block).

The current Steering Committee are now moving from the fundraising stage to focussing on the implementation phase. As a result some members of the Steering Committee may change. Catherine Elliott and Lindy Fitzgerald were nominated as key people to be included, the Chair asked if Management Committee members wish to join to contact Debbie Turner.

- *Biobanking*

OpenSpecimen software is currently being trialled with samples from the ORIGINS biobank located in Joondalup (in conjunction with the Telethon Kids Institute) to prototype the biobanking informatics platform. Gary Geelhoed has spoken to the vendor to scope the costings associated with one or multiple licence/s.

A WA Biobank Steering Committee has been established. The Chair asked for nominations to this Committee.

Jennie Hui has commenced as Project Officer in a part time capacity to pull the Biobanking project together.

Joe Boyle from Pathwest has been involved in the process to date and currently has the Department of Health's approval to develop a business case for provision of centralised Biobanking infrastructure in the State.

- *Strategic Plan Project*
The WAHTN Partners meeting - New Governance Models and Strategic Planning is scheduled on 25 March 2020. The outcomes will be circulated to the Management Committee in due course.
- *Partner Payments*
The Chair noted that the 2020 Partner Payments will be circulated for payment shortly.
- *Lotterywest Final Evaluation Report*
The Report was attached to the Agenda for information.
- *Emergency Medicine Research & Innovation Alliance*
Daniel Fatovich spoke to this item and informed Members that the Emergency Medicine Research & Innovation Alliance has been formed. Tony Celenza (Head of Emergency Medicine at UWA) has been appointed Chair. The initial meeting was held in September 2019, the next meeting is scheduled in March 2020. Dr Anthony Bell (from Queensland Department of Health) has been engaged to speak about his experiences at the Science on the Swan Conference.

6. Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA)

- 6.1 The next AHRA face to face meeting will be held in Perth on 20 May 2020, immediately after the Science on the Swan conference.

Gary Geelhoed is currently Deputy Chair of AHRA and will take on the role of Chair in July 2020.

- 6.2 *AHRA National System Level Initiative - Health Systems Improvement and Sustainability*
The Chair noted that whilst this committee has been set up, the direction and engagement of the Committee hasn't progressed locally. WA's committee representation and methods of information dissemination will be reviewed across all the AHRA initiatives.

- 6.3 *National Indigenous Research(er) Capacity Building (NIRCB) Initiative*
Glenn Pearson provided an update on this initiative.

The program for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research Showcase meeting in Adelaide (27 - 28 February 2020) is close to completion and will be publicised via WAHTN once finalised. Registration details and preliminary information can be found here: <https://www.wahtn.org/event/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-health-research-showcase-2020/>

Alex Brown (South Australia) has commenced formalising an application in response to NHMRC's call for a national capacity building initiative on behalf of the IRCB network. In addition, a newsletter has been developed to provide national perspective on what is happening in this

space. The first newsletter was produced in November 2019 and can be found here: https://www.sahmriresearch.org/user_assets/42e2d2e1e40246c38232d113e0f295d2bd82a0ba/indigenous_researcher_network_newsletter_-_november_2019.pdf

Subsequent newsletters will be made available by links on the WAHTN newsletter and website.

6.4 *Rural Health and Medical Research Network – the Spinifex Network*

Christine Jorm from NSW Regional Health Partners is currently in Perth and gave a presentation on 3 February 2020 regarding the establishment of an Australian Rural Health and Medical Research Network (Spinifex). The Network is still in the formative stage and Christine is welcoming further input and involvement. Gary Geelhoed noted that whilst this isn't strictly an AHRA activity, it is very closely aligned.

The newly developed Spinifex Network website can be found here:

<https://spinifexnetwork.com.au/>

6.5 *Wound Care Initiative and Wound Care Pilot*

An application has been submitted for the Commonwealth Governments funding opportunity for the Wound Management Pilot grant (\$2million). The bid was open to Primary Health Care Networks only, therefore WAHTN collaborated with WAPHA to submit the application. If successful, the work will be undertaken with Wounds Australia and involve 2 AHRA centres and multiple sites across the country.

6.6 *MRFF Funding*

The Chair noted that WAHTN has submitted a brief Progress Report for funding received from the MRFF RART Round 2.1, in line with contractual obligations.

6.7 *NHMRC Review Panel Nominations*

Gary Geelhoed informed Committee Members that the AHRA centres are collating a list of names of researchers with a particular knowledge around translation of research within a clinical setting for submission to the NHMRC. A commitment isn't required at this stage, we just require nomination of names that can be submitted to NHMRC.

7. **Enabling Platforms**

Updates on the following Enabling Platforms were provided:

7.1 *Consumer and Community Health Research Network*

To ensure better integration between WAHTN's platforms and to align with work in the national arena, CCHRN will be changing their name to Consumer and Community Involvement Program.

The WAHTN is taking the lead on the AHRA CCI project focusing on 'Best Practice'. To this end, a CCI Stakeholder Engagement Workshop was held on 22 January 2020. The workshop was well attended and generated a number of best practice exemplars and ideas.

With regards to the Consumer Advocate / Consumer and Community Involvement Coordinators at WAHTN Partner Organisations, conversations have been held regarding the new service model

and consensus among the Partners is they are happy for the revised sustainable model to be implemented.

7.2 *Clinical Trials and Data Management Centre*

Peter Thompson provided a brief verbal update which included that two WAHTN Biostatistician Fellowships (12 months) have been awarded to the following recipients:

- Jun Chih (Mentor Chris Reid), commencing in February 2020
- Sarah Harris (Mentor Max Bulsara), commencing in July 2020

7.3 *Research and Education Training Program*

The online Research Governance Service (RGS) course, comprised of four modules, has been released and can be found here: <https://retprogram.org/portfolio-item/rgs/>

RETProgram has also recently released a module, commissioned by TKI, on Improving Aboriginal Children's Lung Health (<https://retprogram.org/portfolio-item/improving-aboriginal-childrens-lung-health/>). This module is open access to all participants.

WAHTN is currently exploring the development of a broader state-wide WA Research Education platform with the Department of Health, the Area Health Services and our Partners.

A revised version of GCP will be developed, including an abridged refresher module for participants who have previously completed GCP.

8. **Other Business**

- The Chair advised that letters of support were sent to Parliamentarians regarding the WA Future Fund Amendment (Future Health Research and Innovation Fund) Bill 2019.
- Daniel Fatovich informed members that the amended Legislation relating to the Guardianship and Administration Act has been drafted and is still being considered and revised. It is anticipated that researchers will have an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Legislation.
- Torbjorn Falkmer informed Members that he is retiring. Gary Geelhoed thanked Torbjorn for his outstanding contributions and dedication to WAHTN.

Next Meeting:

Next scheduled meeting of the WAHTN Management Committee is as follows:

Tuesday 31 March 2020, 7.30am - 9.00am. Harry Perkins Institute, Meeting Room 272.