



Minutes of the EPSIG AGM held at RCPsych on 31 May 2019

Apologies for absence:

Saadi Ali

Agnes Ayton (Treasurer)

David Geaney

Attendees:

Mohammed Abbas

Riadh Abed (Chair)

Viraj Chouhan

Adwaita Ghosh

Jonathan Gibson

Agampodi Gunasekara

Bejamin Janaway

Muzaffar Kaser

Agnieszka Klimowicz-Sikora

Cara Maiden

Erica Pietrogrande

Vaishnavi Sornarajah

Paul St John-Smith (Newsletter editor)

Annie Swanepoel (Associate editor)

N. White

1. Presentation by Fiona Watson from the RCPsych Information and Library Department. Fiona explained that all college members can obtain login details for access to the college literature database which includes a large number of journals. Full text PDFs can be downloaded directly through this system free of charge. However, articles obtained from other libraries may involve an extra charge. In addition members may request literature searches to assist in research and other academic activity and an example was produced at the meeting of a literature search on the efficacy of suicide prevention strategies. The session was very useful and informative and we are grateful to Fiona for giving up her time to attend our AGM.
2. In the absence of Dr Ayton, our Treasurer, Dr Abed, gave a brief review of our financial position. In summary EPSIG has a sound financial position with reserves of around £15,000 arising from the surpluses accrued from our 3 symposia.
3. A brief review of EPSIG activities 2018/19 was presented by the chair. This included our half-day scientific meeting 18 May 2018 and the whole day 3rd International symposium 22 March 2019. The symposium attracted over 70 registrations and a line-up of internationally renowned speakers. All symposium presentations were recorded and are available on the EPSIG YouTube channel with links on the EPSIG web pages.
4. Dr St John-Smith, newsletter editor, gave a brief report on the publication of the EPSIG newsletters and explained that we have issued 3 newsletters during the first half of 2019 and the 16th newsletter will be published end of summer. All the EPSIG newsletters are posted on the EPSIG web pages. He invited suggestions for future interviews of evolutionists of any discipline as well as contributions such as book reviews, conference reports and evolutionary essays.
5. Ideas for our future meetings were discussed. These include the half day scientific meeting on 1 May 2020 as well as speakers for our 4th International Symposium scheduled for 16 October 2020. A number of promising ideas were proposed and these will be pursued by various members. Also, it was noted that at the next AGM EPSIG will hold elections for the offices of chair and treasurer.
6. The proposal for launching a Charles Darwin Essay Prize that would be open to any doctor working in a non-consultant grade in the UK (foundation doctors, CT & ST trainees and staff grades). The value of the prize was proposed to be £500 and the winner would be invited to attend the EPSIG annual symposium and present their work there. This was unanimously approved. The details were discussed and these will be published separately on the EPSIG web pages.
7. MRCPsych syllabus: The only issue to report on this was the imminent publication of an editorial in the BJPpsych advocating the inclusion of evolutionary biology as a basic science of psychiatry into the MRCPsych syllabus. We are hoping that this would help raise the profile of the debate over this issue within the college.
8. AOB: There were no items under this heading.

