



Minutes for EPSIG AGM 11 June 2021

1. Welcome and EPSIG chair's report on previous and coming year (Paul St John-Smith, PSJS): The AGM was held virtually via Zoom and 16 members attended. PSJS welcomed those present and explained that EPSIG had no activities during 2020 due to the pandemic and that a half-day and full-day event were cancelled as a result. He also explained that we resumed activities in 2021 utilising the virtual format with a half-day webinar on the subject of 'Evolutionary Roots of Attachment Theory' which attracted nearly 500 registrations and over 200 actually attended.
The EPSIG membership has now risen to 1716.
2. Financial Report (Riadh Abed, RA). RA, EPSIG finance officer reported that during 2020 there were no events and therefore no income or expenditure. Therefore, our financial position is unchanged from 2019 where we have just over £10K in our reserves.
3. Launch of Charles Darwin essay prize for students and trainees (Annie Swanepoel, AS). AS updated those present on the proposed imminent opening of applications for the Charles Darwin essay prize in evolutionary psychiatry for students and trainees. This will have a monetary value of £250 and earn the winner a 10-minute slot to present their essay at our annual EP symposium as well as the publication of their work in the EPSIG newsletter.
4. Report by newsletter editor (AS): AS reported that EPSIG continues to aim to publish 4 issues a year and that the next newsletter will be issued end of June or early July. All previous newsletters can be found on the EPSIG web pages which also contains a wealth of other evolutionary resources (can be found on www.epsig.org). She also explained that submissions of articles, book reviews or other suggestions related to evolutionary matters are always welcome and that she can be contacted on: annie.panzer@gmail.com.
5. Plans for an evolutionary educational podcast on RCPsych website (Geoff Lawrence-Smith (GLS)): Unfortunately, due to technical issues, GLS was unable to establish an audio or video link with the meeting and hence, PSJS reported on his behalf the plan to produce an evolutionary CPD module for the college website on evolutionary psychiatry. This is now in preparation.

6. 4th EP International Symposium 29 October 2021: Due to the updated college rules on the pandemic all meetings will remain virtual throughout 2021. Hence, our whole day 4th International EP Symposium will take place on 29 October virtually with 6 keynote speakers. Registration will be open for this meeting soon. We are pleased to note that the reduced student rate is now open to all postgraduate and undergraduate students of all disciplines and not just medical students.
7. Collaboration with EP section at WPA and the newly formed Evolution and Psychiatry Special Interest Group at the College of Psychiatry in Ireland: RA reported on the formation of a sister SIG at the Irish college in February 2021 which has similar aims and objectives to EPSIG which we all warmly welcome. We look forward to collaborating both with the EP Section of the WPA and the Irish SIG as well as any other EP grouping that may be formed anywhere else around the world.
8. Progress on EP edited volume: RA reported on the planned EP edited volume due to be published jointly by the RCPsych and Cambridge University Press. The volume will contain chapters contributed by many of the leading figures in evolutionary psychiatry around the world and will be the first time a single volume would contain such a breadth of material on the subject. We are looking forward to the publication of this volume in 2022 and the finished product will consist of 20 or 21 chapters (18 chapters have already been finalised).
9. AOB: A date will be set in September for the next meeting of the EPSIG executive committee and the minutes will be posted on the EPSIG web pages in due course.

