



Minutes of the EPSIG Executive Committee 7pm 17 January 2023

Via MS Teams

Present (alphabetically):

Reem Abed (guest attendance for item 5 on the agenda), Riadh Abed (RA, Finance Officer), Agnes Ayton, Tom Carpenter (TC), David Geaney, Adam Hunt, Muzaffer Kaser, Paul St John-Smith (PSJS, Chair), Annie Swanepoel (AS, Newsletter Editor).

No apologies received.

1. PSJS welcomed those present and moved straight to item 5: 'Engagement with medical schools and medical students on undergrad education on evolution' and invited Reem to put forward her proposals. Reem gave a brief slide presentation discussing the importance of engaging both with medical student organisations (mainly via PsychSoc's) as well as with medical schools directly. The PsychSoc's are composed of medical students who have a special interest in psychiatry and are willing to put in the time and effort to campaign for worthy causes related medical education. Evolution is not currently on their radar but if they become aware of the value of evolution this can become a cause they can take up with medical school deaneries. It was agreed that as a first step we should consider replicating a published survey of medical schools regarding education on evolutionary biology (Downie, 2004) either directly asking the undergrad deans or asking the PsychSocs. We will be seeking interested trainees to collaborate on this work at the forthcoming Trainee Engagement Day on 27 January. At the end of Reem's presentation AS proposed that she join the EPSIG EC and this was supported by others present. Reem accepted and will attend the next EC meeting as a full EC member.
2. Financial Report (RA): There are 3 areas of expenditure. These are the 2 essay prizes (total £500) and the catering costs for the Trainee Engagement Day on 27 Jan which will be in the region of £250. The third area of expenditure is by far the largest and that is our 5th International EP Symposium on March 10 2023. This is a F2F event that will require 60 fully paid registrations to break even. RA urged all EC members to help promote this event through any NHS trust we may have access to, departmental or other professional networks and also to register themselves. The

event features a great line-up of speakers and we should do everything we can to ensure its success.

3. Charles Darwin essay prize (2022/23) for trainees; announcement of winners and ideas for widening its scope for next year (Annie Swanepoel, AS and assessor panel). The assessor panel (Adam Hunt, Muzaffer Kaser and Derek Tracy) will be carrying out their ratings of the submissions and arranging to meet virtually and determine the 2 winners. We would like to inform the winners as soon as possible so that they have enough time to prepare their respective presentations for the March Symposium.
4. Report by newsletter editor (AS). The 30th newsletter had just been released and AS had no further feedback regarding this item.
5. EPSIG Trainee Engagement Workshop on 27 January 2023 (TC and RA). TC reported that there have been a few cancellations but that we still had over 20 trainees confirmed to attend. TC also presented an outline of the focus group qualitative research he is intending to carry out at the meeting, seeking the views and attitudes of trainees towards evolution and psychiatry.
6. Progress on evolutionary educational podcast on RCPsych website (Geoff Lawrence-Smith). This item was not discussed in view of Geoff's absence.
7. Forthcoming 5th EP International Symposium 10 March 2022 (RA). The need to promote and advertise it as widely as possible and the need for as many of us to register as possible. This item was discussed under section 2 above.
8. Updates on Collaboration with EP section at WPA and Irish EPSIG (RA). The increased subscriptions of the EPSIG UK YouTube channel was noted as well as a significant increase in the number of viewings of our video content (over 40 videos). Currently, the new additions to the channel are exclusively from our activities external to the college as we are no longer able to record lectures at college conferences and upload them on the channel. The WPA EP section webinars continue to attract viewers and our forthcoming 3 speakers include: Cas Soper on 26 Jan, Martin Brune in March and Nikhil Chaudhary in May. All lectures and links can be found on <https://www.wpanet.org/evolutionary-psychiatry>
9. AOB including suggestions/ideas and date of next meeting (All). A project in collaboration with the Philosophy SIG was discussed. David Geaney and AS will continue to try to take this forward and feedback to the next EC meeting on 4 April 2023 at 7pm via MS Teams.

