**Minutes of EPSIG meeting held on 18 May 2016 at the College**

**Attendees:**

Mohammed Abbas

Riadh Abed (RA)

Agnes Ayton (AA)

Andrew Blewett

David Geaney

Sunjai Gupta

Kiran Purandare

Annie Swanepoel

Paul St John-Smith (PSS)

**Apologies:**

Majid Alyassiri

Dan McQueen

1. **Presentation by Annie Swanepoel, chaired by PSS**. Evolution and Child Development. Annie gave an excellent presentation discussing evolutionary aspects of child development. A number of important issues were raised including the neglect of the issue of function in mental health in general, the equating of suffering with disease and disorder and the relationship of early life experiences to life history strategy. The session was interactive with vibrant participation from members of the group. At the end of this session which overran slightly due to the interesting debates and exchange of views it sparked we agreed that we would ensure we have an academic component to all our future SIG business meetings.
2. **Business Meeting, chaired by RA:**
   1. **Planning for the EPSIG inaugural symposium 4 October 2016.** The program for the symposium was discussed and approved with some minor amendments. Andrew Blewett agreed to chair the afternoon session. We also agreed on a list of guests to invite and confirmed the level of the fees and type of catering. We also agreed to limit the capacity of the symposium to 50 as this is our first meeting and we wanted to minimise the cost of the event. We may plan for larger scale meetings in the future depending on the level of interest in this one.
   2. **Ideas and material for the newsletter.** PSS (newsletter editor) was commended for his exceptional diligence in producing 2 excellent newsletters within the space of 4 months and planning to issue a third in the next few weeks. The need for wider participation of EPSIG members in providing content for the newsletter was highlighted and several members promised to provide book reviews, think of conducting interviews with evolutionists of various disciplines etc.
   3. **MRCPsych syllabus**. We noted that AA will be giving a presentation at the October symposium on this subject and a range of ideas were discussed regarding this matter. AA will continue to lead on this.
   4. **Forward planning for 2017**: It was agreed that we would have our AGM for 2017 in January (either 13 or 27 depending on room availability) then a further meeting in May (?19) and next year’s symposium will be in November (date to be determined) so as not to clash with other meetings. It was noted that EPSIG has been invited by the College Adult Faculty to submit a 1:30 hour symposium to their 2017 conference and we welcomed this opportunity to collaborate with other college groups.
   5. **AOB**. None.