**Minutes of the EPSIG AGM 8 September, 2023 via Zoom**

Chair: Paul St John-Smith

1. Paul welcomed attendees to the meeting (up to 18 attended at least part of the meeting). Then presented a brief report on the previous year’s activities including the successful 5th International EPSIG Symposium and the Trainee Engagement workshop held at the college January 2023. Also, Paul updated the meeting on the EPSIG membership numbers which are: 2766 members. The forthcoming events planned for 2024 include: 2nd Trainee Engagement Workshop on 1 March 2024; Joint half-day event together with the Philosophy and Psychiatry SIG hosting Iain McGilchrist on 5 April; 6th International EPSIG Symposium scheduled for 22 November, 2024.
2. Riadh Abed (Finance Officer) gave a brief finance report outlining that the EPSIG finances were in a healthy state and reserves stand at around £15K. The main source of income was our International symposium which netted a surplus of over £4K. The main expenditure were the CALC fees and catering cost for the international symposium, the catering costs for the Trainee Engagement event and the monetary element of the Trainee Essay Prizes.
3. Tom Carpenter gave feedback on plans for the forthcoming Trainee Engagement Workshop planned for 1 March 2024. This would involve a mix of didactic items as well as interactive, breakout, group tasks. The planning group were also thinking of setting up CASC-style scenarios with evolutionary content with actors playing the parts of patients. However, as this will require funding over and above the catering costs which should be included in our finance plans, some of these plans may need to be postponed to 2025. More detailed plans for 2024 will be discussed at the next executive committee meeting.
4. Nikhil Chaudhary briefly explained that Cambridge University makes funds available for suitable projects that can have an impact on patients or professionals that can improve health outcomes. A couple of bids have already been successful from this ‘Impact Funding’ scheme and they include funding a project for the development of information leaflets on post-natal depression inspired by evolutionary thinking and funding for the catering of the Trainee Engagement Workshop in 2024.
5. Annie Swanepoel reported on the plans for the next round of the Charles Darwin essay prizes. These will be advertised around March 2024 and the winners will be offered free places and a 10-minute slot at our forthcoming 6th International symposium.
6. Annie Swanepoel (newsletter editor) reported that a trainee member of EPSIG has taken up the role of assistant editor (Costa Savva and Sirous Golchinheydari) and this has led to a revamping of the graphics of the newsletter. The idea of using material from Derek’s BJP Kaleidoscope column as well as interviews with evolutionists from around the world. Annie welcomed any other ideas or contributions to the newsletter from members or supporters of EPSIG.
7. Riadh Abed reported on the progress of planning for the 6th International symposium. There are 6 confirmed keynote speakers including eminent guest speakers. The background of the speakers is very diverse and include: clinical psychology, neuropsychology, anthropology, primatology as well as psychiatry. We only need to invite one more speaker to have a full program.
8. Riadh reported on the ongoing program of webinars run by the EP Section of the WPA that will run for a 3rd year from Nov 2023-May 2024. Also, that the Irish EPSIG is holding an event in Ireland in October 2023 where both Paul and Riadh are speaking and registration is free and open to all (contact Henry O’Connell for further information). In addition, Annie will be presenting evolutionary ideas at two joint symposia (with 2 other WPA sections) at the WPA meeting in Vienna end of September this year and has been invited to speak about evolutionary psychiatry in Denmark in October and Ireland in November. Also, Riadh has been invited to speak on evolutionary psychiatry at the National Medical Student Conference in Sheffield in January 2024 and also invited to speak at the CPD program for University College Dublin in November 2023.
9. AOB: None