



## **Minutes of EPSIG AGM**

**18 May 2018 at the RCPsych 4-5pm**

1. Attendance:  
Mohammed Abbas  
Riadh Abed (Chair)  
Saadi Ali  
Nikhil Chaudhary  
Muzaffar Kaser  
Paul St John-Smith (Newsletter Editor)  
Annie Swanepoel (Assistant Editor)
2. Apologies:  
Agnes Ayton (Treasurer)  
Andrew Blewett
3. Review of activities for the previous year. The chair of gave a brief overview of the activities of the previous year. EPSIG held a successful half day scientific meeting in May 2017 and a landmark second symposium in January 2018. Our second symposium had over 100 delegates and the videos of the lectures, which have been posted on YouTube with links on EPSIG web pages, have attracted numerous hits.
4. Financial report: The financial position was briefly presented by the chair on behalf of the treasurer who sent her apologies. It was specifically noted that EPSIG has a healthy financial surplus that currently stands at approximately £10,500. This has accrued primarily from the second symposium. Our healthy financial position should give us considerable leeway in organising our next symposium.

5. Planning for Third Evolutionary Psychiatry Symposium 22 March 2019. The chair explained that we already have 4 confirmed keynote speakers (2 from Europe, one each from the UK and USA) and we agreed that we would aim to get one or two more speakers. We will seek to ensure ample discussion time and audience participation and adequate breaks. The aim is to maintain EPSIG's momentum in spreading the evolutionary message that we managed to achieve in our previous 2 successful symposia.
6. EPSIG Newsletter and website. The group commended Paul, our editor for his diligence and outstanding productivity. We then discussed ways of increasing participation in the newsletter and also widening its distribution. These are all proving to be uphill tasks. We also noted that our website is currently up to date and we would seek to continue to maintain and improve it.
7. Curriculum updates. There have been no specific developments on this front other than to say that the place where evolution may be added if accepted will most likely be in the Neuroscience module. It was noted that there appears to be a degree of resistance to the inclusion of evolution from a number of quarters. Also, the suggestion that we should consider submitting an editorial to the Bulletin on this subject was reiterated.
8. College issues. The chair explained that in a recent informal consultation that the college undertook with the chairs of all 15 college SIGs, there was overwhelming support for the idea of an annual meeting of the chairs of the SIGs together with the elected officers of the college. Those present at our meeting strongly supported such an initiative. The chair will be conveying this view to the college hierarchy.
9. AOB. There were no items under this heading.

