

## MINUTES SANS AGM 2016

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tanya Calvey, Antoinette Burger, David John Hume, Vivienne Russell (EXCO), SJH, Jacqueline Womersley, Fortune Gankpe, Moses Ekong, Oluwafemi Oluwole, Chris Ajonijebu Duyilemi, Toikumo Sylvanus, Fogang Fogoum Yannick, James Ashaolu, Sahba Besharati, Osimhiarherhus Adeleye, Sian Hemmings (EXCO), Fleur Howells (EXCO)

The 2016 SANS AGM was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016, Wolfson Pavilion, IDM, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa. Time of meeting 17h30-19h00.

1. Minutes of AGM 2015 Durban KZN (<http://wp.me/P6VGQ8-6L>) were accepted
2. Report back on SANS symposium 2015, Biological Psychiatry, Somerset West

SANS Symposium 2015 was held on Saturday 25 September. The plenary speaker was Prof Thomas Elbert, from University of Konstanz in Germany, whose talk was entitled "Perpetrator or Victim: Differences in Brain Circuitry in Appetitive and Reactive Aggression"

There were 10 oral presentations by SANS members, and 10 poster presentations.

Award winners:

### **SANS National Travel Award Winner(s):**

--Asisipo Mohamed (UKZN): *The changes of pro-inflammatory cytokines in a prenatally stressed febrile seizure animal model & whether Rhus-chirindensis may attenuate these changes*

### **SANS Regional Travel Award Winner(s):**

--Mr Lyndon Zass (SU): *Investigating COMT variants in anxiety sensitivity in South African adolescents*

--Mr Khethelo Xulu (SU): *Genetic investigation of appetitive aggression in South African former young offenders: the involvement of serotonin transporter*

--Ms Patricia Swart (UCT): *The brain and behaviour in a third trimester equivalent animal model of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders*

--Ms Faatiemah Higgins (SU): *Investigation of Variants within Antipsychotic Candidate Pharmacogenes Associated with Treatment Outcome*

--Ms Kelebogile Moremi (SU): *Influence of TMPRSS6 A736V and HFE C282Y on serum iron parameters and age of onset in patients with multiple sclerosis*

--Dr Hilmar Luckhoff (SU): *Clinical relevance of FTO rs9939609 as a determinant of cardio-metabolic risk in South African patients with major depressive disorder*

3. SANS Constitution
  - a. The current SANS constitution was found to still meet the society's needs and current functions.
  - b. If members would like specific changes to the constitution these need to be presented as motions for change.
  - c. The current chair, Fleur Howells, presented a case in which a member requested that the society complete a form which declared the scarce skills of this individual for the attainment of residency in South Africa. This request was denied, with a rebuttal provided stating the role of the society and that it is not a professional board or council. The member then went on to request that they be considered for honorary membership. The chair brought this request to the current EXCO. Where the request was denied. Feedback was provided from the responses by EXCO. The chair found this situation very difficult to deal with as the member was exceptionally persistent and harassing. The chair chose not to reveal the name of the member at this time.
4. Membership of SANS <http://saneurosoc.co.za/register/>
  - a. Concern was raised that the full EXCO has not signed up as SANS members on the new website, links to the new website have been sent out to all EXCO members several times in the last year, 2016. Simply stating that they are too busy is not a sufficient reason to not be signed up. It was suggested that those EXCO that do not keep their membership current should be removed from EXCO.
  - b. Our current number of members signed up on the SANS website is 107.

- c. Our aim for membership in 2017 is 150 and this should be visible on the SANS website
  - d. All members should try to drive membership growth
5. New SANS website
- a. Members reported that they enjoy the new modern SANS website
  - b. SANS needs to investigate the cost of PayPal as a means of direct payment
    - i. The current system makes it very difficult to track who has paid and who has not paid, as members are asked to upload proof of payment, and do not necessarily have to do so in order to sign up as a member.
    - ii. The current system does not allow individuals outside of South Africa to make payment, PayPal permits anyone anywhere in the world to sign up efficiently with either a debit or credit card.
    - iii. The cost of a transaction should not exceed the cost of membership: R100
  - c. A task team to manage social media and neuroscience education was formed
    - i. Social media team: SJH, Jacqueline Womersley, Antoinette Burger
    - ii. Social media includes: links to twitter, facebook (with Facebook page), and Instagram all to be linked with the SANS website
    - iii. Neuroscience education: Jacqueline Womersley
    - iv. Neuroscience education page on the website will serve scholars of all ages, schools, and provide information on the annual brain awareness week
    - v. Task team members will be introduced to web manager by Chair
6. SANS placing a Bid for IBRO Congress 2023
- a. Members were in support of SANS placing a bid for the IBRO Congress
  - b. Members were in support of SANS working with Paragon as the conference organizers – Chair to sign revised letter where it is clearly stated that Paragon bears all financial liabilities that may occur.
  - c. SANS to inform SONA Secretary-General of SANS intent to place a bid for the IBRO Congress
- Professor Nouria Lakdhar-Ghazal,  
c/o SONA Secretariat, Dept Medical Physiology, University of Nairobi  
P.O. Box 30197-00100 Nairobi Email: [sona@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:sona@uonbi.ac.ke)
7. SANS Symposium 2017
- a. 2017 SANS Symposium will be hosted by Biological Psychiatry, September 2017
  - b. Other potential hosts that were identified for 2018 were the University of Pretoria and the Physiology Society (PSSA), this needs to be taken forward in 2017, to determine a suitable partner.
8. Brain Awareness week
- a. Lihle Qulu led a very successful outreach in 2016 within the KZN region, minimal funding was given to support her groups initiative.
  - b. Resource sites and community that can be contacted for information/documents for 2017 – This will be taken up by the Education task team and will include: Brainfacts, NIDA junior & senior school links, NIAA Brain Works links, and other relevant information, thereby making SANS a rich resource.
9. Other SANS outreach activities
- a. In 2016, Nathaniel McGregor's outreach at Stellenbosch University was well received. Chair to ask Nathaniel whether this can be repeated in 2017.
  - b. University of Witwatersrand will be led by Tanya Calvey and Sahba Besharati
  - c. University of Cape Town will be led by SJH this will include the University's Cortex Club and BSc(Med)Hons course, where we may call upon Hayley Tomes for her assistance.
  - d. Other outreaches are welcomed.
  - e. Details of outreaches, e.g. event and number of participants needs to be noted for reporting at the next AGM

## 10. Treasury report

- a. Requested that reports be sent for circulation 4 weeks prior to AGM for members to go through. No reports were received. Members motioned that the current Treasurer be removed.
- b. Treasurer to take us through the reports – expenses paid, income that has come in, and balances over last few years. Treasurer was unable to attend the AGM.
- c. A full audit of the SANS account was motioned and this was supported by all members present at the AGM. It was requested that this audit be completed before June 2017.
- d. A new Treasurer was appointed at the meeting – **refer to point 12**. The new Treasurer Dr Sian Hemmings a seasoned member of the committee with previous experience as a Treasurer was nominated and this nomination was supported by members present. Dr Sian Hemmings agreed to take on the role as the SANS Treasurer, on the condition that the audit of the SANS account is to be completed before taking over the role.

## 11. Fundraising

- a. A fundraising task team was formed: Fleur Howells and Tanya Calvey.
- b. Fundraising can only take place once SANS financials are clear, as these will be shown to potential donors.

## 12. New EXCO committee voted in as follows, this holds for 2 years (refer to constitution C2ii):

### OLD EXCO (9 members)

*Chair:* Fleur Howells, University of Cape Town ( [howellsfleur@gmail.com](mailto:howellsfleur@gmail.com) )

*Secretary:* Sian Hemmings, Stellenbosch University ( [smjh@sun.ac.za](mailto:smjh@sun.ac.za) )

*Treasurer:* Musa Mabandla, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal ( [mabandlam@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:mabandlam@ukzn.ac.za) )

*Media Officer:* Jennifer Hsieh, University of Cape Town ( [jennifer.hsieh@uct.ac.za](mailto:jennifer.hsieh@uct.ac.za) )

*Co-opted executive committee member:* Laurie Kellaway, University of Cape Town ( [lauriston.kellaway@uct.ac.za](mailto:lauriston.kellaway@uct.ac.za) )

*Co-opted executive committee member:* Vivienne Russell, University of Cape Town ( [Vivienne.Russell@uct.ac.za](mailto:Vivienne.Russell@uct.ac.za) )

*Co-opted executive committee member:* Adhil Bhagwandin, Witwatersrand ( [adhil\\_b@yahoo.com](mailto:adhil_b@yahoo.com) )

*Co-opted executive committee member:* Lihle Qulu, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal ( [Qulul@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:Qulul@ukzn.ac.za) )

*Co-opted executive committee member:* Brian Harvey, North West University ( [Brian.Harvey@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Brian.Harvey@nwu.ac.za) )

### NEW EXCO (11 members)

*Chair:* Fleur Howells, University of Cape Town ( [howellsfleur@gmail.com](mailto:howellsfleur@gmail.com) )

*Secretary:* Tanya Calvey, University of Witwatersrand ( [Tanya.Calvey@wits.ac.za](mailto:Tanya.Calvey@wits.ac.za) )

*Treasurer:* Sian Hemmings, Stellenbosch University ( [smjh@sun.ac.za](mailto:smjh@sun.ac.za) ) **on condition stipulated in point 10d**

*Executive committee member social media & outreach:* Sarah Heany, University of Cape Town ( [sarah.heany@uct.ac.za](mailto:sarah.heany@uct.ac.za) )

*Executive committee member social media & outreach:* Jacqueline Womersley, Stellenbosch University ( [jacqueline.womersley@gmail.com](mailto:jacqueline.womersley@gmail.com) )

*Executive committee member social media & outreach:* Antoinette Burger, University of Cape Town ( [antburger@gmail.com](mailto:antburger@gmail.com) )

*Executive committee member social media & outreach:* David John Hume, University of Cape Town ( [davidjohnhume@gmail.com](mailto:davidjohnhume@gmail.com) )

*Co-opted executive committee member:* Vivienne Russell, University of Cape Town ( [Vivienne.Russell@uct.ac.za](mailto:Vivienne.Russell@uct.ac.za) )

*Co-opted executive committee member:* Brian Harvey, North West University ( [Brian.Harvey@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Brian.Harvey@nwu.ac.za) )

*Co-opted executive committee member:* Jennifer Hsieh, University of Cape Town ( [jennifer.hsieh@uct.ac.za](mailto:jennifer.hsieh@uct.ac.za) )

*Co-opted executive committee member:* Laurie Kellaway, University of Cape Town ( [lauriston.kellaway@uct.ac.za](mailto:lauriston.kellaway@uct.ac.za) )

Meeting closed 19h00