

MINUTES SANS AGM

17h18 16 SEPTEMBER 2017

Vergelegen Room

Lord Charles Hotel

Somerset West

Members present

Fleur Howells (EXCO), Tanya Calvey (EXCO), Sian Hemmings (EXCO), Antoinette Burger (EXCO), Jacqueline Womersley (EXCO), Brian Harvey (EXCO), Kimberley Williams, Sharon Truter, Lihle Qulu, Sylvanus Toikumo, Annerine Roos, Nathaniel McGregor, Patricia Swart

Non-members present

Allan Kalungi, Khethelo Xulu, Kristy Martin, Eugene Kinyanda, Emile Chimusa

Apologies

Vivienne Russell, David John Hume

1) SANS AGM 2016 at UCT, Cape Town

Minutes were approved.

2) SANS membership

a. Membership at the end of 2016 stood at 107. Goal for 2017 was set at 150 at the 2016 AGM. Current membership 154. Goal for 2018 set at 200. Fleur Howells thanked Tanya Calvey for her contribution to growing the membership in Gauteng.

b. Mechanisms to stimulate membership

Lihle Qulu suggested an initiative that will be a partnership between SONA and SANS in order to grow the Society and neuroscience in southern Africa and will keep the Society updated with the progress.

3) SANS website

a. Report on Education page

Jacqueline Womersley reported that the Education page is a free-access page that contains neuroscience resources for different age groups and levels. More than 10 000 emails were sent out to schools around South Africa with links to the education pages on the SANS website. Team included Jacqueline Womersley, Fleur Howells, Antoinette Burger and Sarah Heany. Fleur Howells has received very positive feedback on the page. Full report at <http://saneurosoc.co.za/2017/03/happy-brain-awareness-week/>

b. Report on social media

Antoinette Burger reported that the Facebook page has been a success, 121 likes. Posts to the website have been linked to the Facebook page and Facebook followers receive SANS information as well as neuroscience news that is posted by Antoinette Burger and Tanya Calvey.

No report was given for SANS Twitter and Instagram pages.

All posted via SANS Website is relayed to all three social media pages.

4. SANS Symposiums

a. 2016 report

2016 SANS Symposium was held 11 December 2016 at the Wolfson Pavillion, IDM, University of Cape Town.

Number of attendees: 65

Plenary speakers: Terry Gillbert, Allen Institute for Brain Science, USA; Bahador Bahrami, Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, University College London, UK

Special speaker: Said Boujraf, University Fez, Morocco

Oral presenters: 25

Abstract presenters: 14

Travel awards (national): Rivona Harricharan, Sahba Besharati

Travel awards (regional): David John Hume, Jacqueline Womersley, Katherine Atmore, Laetitia Dicks

Paula Heron Award: Jacqueline Womersley

Organizing and support committee: Sarah Heany, DJ Hume, Patricia Swart, Antoinette Burger, Sian Hemmings

Judges: Vivienne Russell, Said Boujraf, Terri Gilbert

AGM attended by: 17 members

Costing of symposium:

R2,000-Donation, Brain and Behaviour Unit, Department of Psychiatry

Paid for cool drinks, water, and muffins (direct payment via donor's fund)

R10,500-Musa Mabandla transferred from SANS account to Fleur Howell's account to pay for JEM coffee and Radhe's

R4,265-JEM Coffee, Januss Engelbrecht

Paid by EFT, Musa Mabandla transferred these monies to Fleur Howells

R5,950-Radhe's Unconditionally Delicious Wholesome Pure Vegetarian Food

Paid in cash, Musa Mabandla transferred these monies to Fleur Howells

R 285-Remaining funding to be paid back to SANS

Conference lanyards, note books, pens, and bags obtained via sponsors: Axiology Labs & Inqaba Biotec

b. 2018 Conference of Biomedical Sciences and Therapeutics (CoBST)

EXCO agreed end of 2016 to support SANS' role in this federation of societies. CoBST is an umbrella-type conference of societies with shared interests in basic, translational and clinical biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences in South Africa. Conferences will be co-hosted every 3 years or as frequently as feasible.

CoBST 2018 will be hosted in the Western Cape with Prof Helmuth Reuter, Division of Clinical Pharmacology, University of Stellenbosch, as the convener.

c. SANS Symposium 2019 will be hosted by Biological Psychiatry

d. Tanya Calvey offered to convene the 2020 SANS Symposium at the University of the Witwatersrand

- e. SANS Symposium 2021 will either be hosted by Biological Psychiatry or CoBST. To be decided.
- f. SANS Symposium 2022 host to be decided. Venue to be outside of the Western Cape.
- g. If successful with the bid for Cape Town to host the 2023 IBRO Congress, the SANS Symposium will be held as a parallel to the IBRO Congress. The bid will be early 2018. IBRO Congress will attract 3500-5500 international delegates.

5. Report on SANS outreach activities

a. Stellenbosch University Open Day 25 February 2017

Organised by Nathaniel McGregor, Fleur Howells and Jacqueline Womersley. High school students and their parents were guided on how to enter and navigate the field of neuroscience. Thousands of people attended the SU open day, it is estimated that around 100 persons were spoken to/SANS business cards handed to.

Members suggested that these types of events are good outreach activities and that SANS should attempt to do more of them but Fleur Howells is wary to over-burden members and that the Society needs to stay focused on facilitating neuroscience research/networking and not taking a university role in establishing neuroscience at any university.

b. Brain Awareness week- Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives, 13-19 March 2017

Led by Jacqueline Womersley. SANS was registered as a BAW outreach initiative. See point 3b above.

c. University of Cape Town Education Expo Open Day- Sports Science Institute- 3 October 2017. Fleur Howells to recruit members to present on topics related psychiatry and neuroscience?

d. The Brain Matters Seminar Series March- December 2017

Organised by Tanya Calvey and Sahba Besharati. Tanya Calvey reported that the seminar series is a joint initiative of the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Human Development, the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study, SANS and the Wits Cortex Club. The theme of the series is the past, present and future of neuroscience in southern Africa. The launch event took place in March with Prof Willem Gispen (Utrecht University) as the invited speaker. Prof Vivienne Russel (UCT) was invited to give the 1st seminar on the History of Neuroscience in Africa which took place 20 April. Prof Paul Manger (WITS) gave the 2nd seminar on the Evolutions of Large Brains in Mammals on 25 May. Prof Mark Solms (UCT) gave his seminar 18 August on the Neural Mechanisms of Dreaming. Planned speakers for October and December seminars are Dr Samantha Brooks (UCT) and Prof Morten Kringelbach (Oxford).

The seminar series has been the launch of the Wits Cortex Club which is a collaboration with the UCT Cortex Club and the Oxford Cortex Club. The club is registered with the Wits Medical Students' Council and aims to expose health scientists to the possibilities of neuroscience research.

6. SANS academic/research collaborative efforts

a. Connecting the heart and the brain

This initiative is a collaboration between the Physiology Society of Southern Africa (PSSA) and SANS. A day seminar will take place 2 December from 09h00. Organisers are Sian Hemmings, Fleur Howells, Prof Essop (PSSA Chair) and Dr Shishi (PSSA Secretary). National researchers will present research on the connection between the heart (physiology) and brain (neuroscience) in the morning. The afternoon will consist of mentoring and career guidance lectures and will include the following topics: writing skills development, the publishing process, finding suitable mentors. The event is planned to attract 100 students, post-graduates and early career scientists.

7. Bid for SANS to host IBRO Congress 2023

A provisional contract has been signed with Paragon as proposed conference organisers.

City of Cape Town Tourism and Cape Town Convention Centre has indicated their strong support of the bid.

IBRO Secretary-General is aware of SANS' intent and the official letter of intent will be sent out early 2018.

SANS will link with other sister-societies for this initiative.

8. Treasury report- Sian Hemmings

Current account contains around R16000.

Total investments amount to around R209000.

Sian Hemmings reported that Paypal required opening an FNB account. PayFast is a preferable option when compared to other options (PayGate, iPay, My Gate) as there is no set-up fee and is not bank specific. PayFast costs ~R10 per payment. The Society may need to increase the membership fees to R115.

All members supported move to PayFast. All members support the fee increase of R15, bringing membership fee to R115.

Sian Hemmings will lead the set-up of the online payment mechanism.

Chris Currin will be asked to assist with the links on our Website to PayFast once SANS is set-up. Second, to improve membership fee tracking via the online system of payment, including notification of membership renewals.

Financial Audit

This is currently being conducted by Kirkman-Lanfear Chartered Accountants.

The audit is still pending.

9. Fundraising

Pending full financials and clearance of audit before this can be approached.

10. Transformation- Tanya Calvey

Tanya Calvey suggested that a percentage of the annual travel awards at the Symposia should be assigned towards transformation. Priority should also be given to members from outside of the Western Cape. This should be advertised when the call for abstracts is released (at least 2 months before the Symposium).

Nathaniel McGregor suggested that the Society should consult with institutional transformation committees for guidance.

Tanya Calvey suggested that members be co-opted onto the EXCO for the purpose of transformation. The Society supported this idea.

Members nominated, accepted, and voted in: Lihle Qulu, Nathaniel McGregor, Kimberley Williams.

11. 2017 SANS Symposium Award winners

Dr Marisa Moller- Paula Herron award

Dr Lihle Qulu- National travel award

Dr Stephanie Malan-Muller- Regional Local travel award

Dr Jacqueline Womersley- Local travel award

Ms Antoinette Burger- Local travel award

Current EXCO (voted in 11 December 2016 for a 2 year cycle. Next voting at 2018 AGM):

Chair: Fleur Howells (UCT), howellsfleur@gmail.com

Secretary: Tanya Calvey (WITS), tanya.calvey@wits.ac.za

Treasurer: Sian Hemmings (SUN), smjh@sun.ac.za

Current EXCO members social media and outreach:

S. Heany (UCT)

Jacqueline Womersley (SUN), Jacqueline.womersley@gmail.com

Antoinette Burger (UCT), antburger@gmail.com

David Hume (UCT), davidjohnhume@gmail.com

Co-opted EXCO members:

Vivienne Russell, (UCT), Vivienne.russell@uct.ac.za

Brian Harvey (NWU), brian.harvey@nwu.ac.za

Jennifer Hsieh (UCT), Jennifer.hsieh@uct.ac.za

Laurie Kellaway (UCT), Lauriston.kellaway@uct.ac.za

New EXCO members transformation:

Lihle Qulu (UKZN), qulul@ukzn.ac.za

Nathaniel McGregor (SUN), nwm@sun.ac.za

Kimberley Williams (UCT), Kimberley.c.williams@gmail.com

Meeting closed at 18h20