

**WA Health Translation Network
Management Committee Subgroup Meeting 01/2022
Minutes
Tuesday 22 February 2022, 11.30am – 12.30pm
Location: Room 634, Harry Perkins Institute, and via MS Teams**

Present

Chair: Professor Gary Geelhoed, Executive Director WAHTN
Busselton Population Medical Research Institute: Ms Jennie Hui
Edith Cowan University: Professor John Olynyk
Harry Perkins Institute: Professor Kevin Pflieger
North Metropolitan Health Service: Dr Aron Chakera
The University of Notre Dame Australia: Professor Jim Codde
The University of Western Australia: Professor Romola Bucks
WAHTN Clinical Trials and Data Management Centre: Professor Chris Reid
WAHTN Chief Operating Officer: Dr Debbie Turner
WAHTN Manager: Ms Lauren White

Apologies

Murdoch University: Professor David Morrison
Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science: Professor Steve Wilton AO
St John of God Hospital: Professor Steve Webb
Telethon Kids Institute: Professor Catherine Elliott
WAHTN Consumer and Community Involvement Program: Ms Debra Langridge

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomes members to this meeting.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2021

The Minutes of the Meeting of the WAHTN Management Committee Subgroup held on 17 November 2021 were noted.

Arising from the Minutes of that meeting was the Animal Resource Centre (ARC). Gary Geelhoed advised that an ARC Stakeholder Update meeting was held on 9 February 2022, hosted by JTSI. Due to the late notice, Gary Geelhoed was unable to attend the meeting, however it is understood that three independent groups have shown interest in potentially taking on the ARC, with a business model to be determined. JTSI will distribute formal outcomes from that meeting and once received, these will be circulated to this group for information.

3. Governance

3.1 New WAHTN Executive Board Chairman Appointment

The Hon Ian Campbell has been appointed by the Minister for Health as Chairman of WAHTN. A function to formally announce the appointment of incoming WAHTN Chairman, the Hon Ian Campbell and thank outgoing Chairman, the Hon Malcolm McCusker AC has been scheduled on Tuesday 8 March 2022.

The Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Emergency Services; ICT and Innovation; Medical Research; Volunteering and Mr Simon Millman MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health; Mental Health will be attending the event. The Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, Minister for Health; Mental Health and the Hon Stephen Pratt MLC, Member for the South Metropolitan Region will attend if circumstances allow them to do so.

Individual meetings with incoming Chairman, Ian Campbell, WAHTN Partners and members on the Executive Board are currently being arranged.

Ian Campbell has commenced various external relations and advocacy on behalf of the WAHTN, including the following:

- Preliminary discussions with Minister Greg Hunt to re-instate federal funding for the Research Translation Centres, in collaboration with the AHRA Chair, Professor Don Nutbeam (Sydney Health Partners).
- Lobbying the newly appointed Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research.

At this point, group members discussed the FHRI Fund and how funds have been redistributed across the State between the FHRI Fund and WA Department of Health. Of note was that FHRI funding awarded can not be spent on infrastructure. Romola Bucks reiterated that this also included funds for infrastructure maintenance (i.e. to re-calibrate machines). Additionally, to be awarded funds you must be an employee of a university. As such the medical research institutes are benefiting from this, due to researchers' affiliations with universities.

All group members agreed that there needs to be a strategic pathway to break down some of these barriers to ensure funds are competitive.

Gary Geelhoed noted that he has recently met with Hon. Stephen Dawson (Minister for Medical Research) and Mr Simon Millman (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health; Mental Health) at which he raised these concerns.

Gary Geelhoed mentioned AAMRI WA held a stakeholder meeting in late 2021, in response to calls from the sector to address the decline in WA's competitive grant success. Potential strategies for improving success rates was discussed. Gary Geelhoed will arrange to meet with the AAMRI WA Chair, Jonathan Carapetis to discuss these concerns again.

3.2 Executive Board Meeting

The next meeting of the WAHTN Executive Board is scheduled on Wednesday 9 March 2022.

3.3 Executive Director Position

The WAHTN Executive Director position was advertised, applications closed on 31 January 2022. The Executive Board has endorsed nominated candidates and the interview process is underway.

3.4 2022 Partnership Contributions

Gary Geelhoed provided an update on the Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) and stated that despite numerous reminders, three Partner Organisations have not yet submitted their signed Agreements, which is preventing WAHTN from finalising and circulating the fully executed JVA.

With regards to the 2022 partnership contributions, Gary Geelhoed recently wrote to all Partner Organisations asking them if they would consider maintaining their 2021 partnership fee commitment in 2022. This arrangement would be an interim measure to keep the WAHTN operational throughout the calendar year, whilst the WAHTN Executive Board undertakes a full review of future partnership payments. To date, the majority of Partners have agreed to this and invoices have been sent.

Gary Geelhoed noted that Funding Agreements for key WAHTN Platforms have been slow to arrive, resulting in a reduction of staff and limitations of activities being conducted in 2022.

3.5 Application for Re-accreditation as NHMRC Research Translation Centre

WAHTN's application to NHMRC for Re-accreditation as a Research Translation Centre was submitted on 20 January 2022. NHMRC have advised they are reviewing all Research Translation Centre applications received and have indicated that an official outcome should be received in late April 2022.

Gary Geelhoed advised that WACHS, Curtin University and WAPHA submitted a WACHS-led accreditation application as a Research Translation Centre under the Regional, Rural and Remote tier, titled the "WA Rural Research and Innovation Alliance". WAHTN looks forward to working closely with the new group to strengthen research translation in regional, rural and remote WA.

3.6 2022 Management Committee Forum

Gary Geelhoed advised that the new Chairman of the WAHTN Executive Board will be reviewing the WAHTN governance structure. Whilst this is underway, a placeholder for the bi-annual WAHTN Management Committee Partnership forum has been tentatively scheduled on Thursday 28 April 2022.

4. Activities

4.1 Science on the Swan 2022

The Science on the Swan 2022 Conference Program is being populated with key speakers that are experts across the health and medical research innovation and commercialisation sector. Of note, the following have been confirmed:

- The Hon. Stephen Dawson; Minister for Medical Research
- Professor Peter Klinken AC; WA Chief Scientist
- Dr Craig Challen SC OAM; Thai cave rescue diver and 2019 Australian of the Year
- Ruben Meerman; the Surfing Scientist
- Esti Shelly; Israeli Ministry of Health, digital health division
- Dr Eyal Zimlichman; Deputy Director General, Chief Medical Officer and Chief Innovation Officer at Sheba Medical Center, Israel

Additionally, there will be a Consumer and Community Involvement breakfast, Conference dinner, and significantly discounted registration rates for students are being offered this year.

The current Program which outlines all current Conference Sessions and speakers can be found here:
<https://scienceontheswan.com.au/cms/wp-content/uploads/Program-Overview-1.pdf>

Romola Bucks asked if the Science on the Swan Organising Committee would consider changing the terminology to reflect “health innovation” as quite a lot of non-medical researchers who are working in health innovation could find it quite alienating. It was agreed that the term ‘health and medical innovation’ would be used in all future communication.

4.2 Promotion of Clinician Researchers

WAHTN has initiated the implementation of a clinician researchers’ model in Western Australia, with the establishment of a Working Group chaired by Professor Lindy Fitzgerald (Curtin University). The group are currently determining a practical solution to buy back clinicians time and are designing a survey to be sent to doctors, allied health and nursing practitioners as to preferences and salary expectations. Gary Geelhoed advised that he will contact the Chief Medical Officer, Chief Health Professions Officer and Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer to assist with the survey distribution.

5. Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA)

5.1 National Wound Care Initiative

The National Wound Standards have been updated and the Wounds Standards Self-Audit Tool will shortly be completed for distribution with the Standards.

The cost of wound care survey has been conducted across tertiary hospitals, GPs and Aged Care settings in collaboration with AHRA Partner, Health Translation Queensland.

5.2 Consumer and Community Involvement Initiative

The CCI Handbook is the first ‘how-to’ guide for embedding CCI in research. It is designed for researchers, consumers, organisations, and funders, and incorporates templates and useful resources. The Handbook is now available widely, including on the WAHTN website, AHRA Translation Centre’s websites and the Consumer Health Forum Australia.

Preparations are underway for the first ever international CCI Conference to be held in Perth in October 2023.

6. Other Business

Jeff Keelan and Aron Chakera have put a framework together. Aron stated they need help to bring the final elements together to create a business case for the WA Department of Health. Gary Geelhoed offered to help if possible.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the WAHTN Management Committee Subgroup will be held at the following time:
Tuesday 29 March 11 am – 12 pm