

Annual General Meeting of the National Molecular Diagnostics Users Group
November 7, 2017
Start time: 12:20 PM

MEETING MINUTES

Tim Karnauchow chairing in Sara Christianson absence

1. Sign-in distributed
2. Previous meeting circulated
 - a. Astrid motions to approve the minutes, Kathy seconds the motion
3. Chair and Meeting Chair Report
 - 3.1 Meeting Chair Report
 - a. More vendors registered for the meeting this year than ever before.
 - b. +70 exhibitors, multiple people per company
 - c. 26 companies
 - d. 22 exhibits
 - e. We were maxed out this year – we may have to reorganize the space for next year
 - f. We capped the # of workshops
 - g. \$56, 400
 - h. CACMID financial support still pending? SC to update later.
 - i. 43 travel grants submitted – currently not sure of amount to be claimed
 - j. Hotel rooms totally booked
 - k. Finances good for the meeting
 - l. “tell us about your lab” session very popular – promote earlier next year
 - m. Dec 3&4 for NMG 2018 (Monday and Tuesday)
 - n. Astrid should not be the only person organizing the meeting – other Board members should help
 - 3.2 Chair Report – TK filling in as Past Chair for SC
 - a. 3.2.1. By-Laws – we are using versions 1.1 now. Amendment was made to clarify what to do if a member of the Board is no longer employed
 - b. 3.2.2 – Travel Grant Deadline – not relevant any longer
4. Webmaster Report – Min
 - a. Distribute duties a bit – Min needs help with web support
 - b. Online registration is working
 - c. Educational section – talks, power point, good links we can provide, some talks from the meeting
 - d. The website is behind a firewall in some places

5. Treasurer's Report – Jessica

- a. Year end 31 March 2017:
 - i. \$70,000 opening
 - ii. \$68, 675 closing
 - iii. Detailed financials available to any NMG member by contacting the Treasurer
- b. Travel claims and catering expenses increased this year
- c. Jessica is working with Astrid to determine the numbers after the conference
- d. All thanked Linda for her great contribution to NMG over the years
- e. Greg German – PEI comments that NMG also benefits from the in-kind support of SickKids. Astrid Confirms that SickKids does not charge for the conference facilities (\$8000) for a 2 day meeting. They also provide administrative support to Astrid – producing name tags, packages → about 20 hours of support

6. Education Challenge – Kathy

- a. Based on the results of the previous 16S and MALDI challenges a paper is being planned for publication
- b. Upcoming panels of interest may be: stool pathogens panel for molecular identification – some may need this for accreditation. A specimen exchange of this material was also discussed
- c. Other potential ideas: WNV, Zika, Chik, Dengue panel

7. Secretary's report

- a. 2017 61 memberships registered
- b. 2017 151+ conference registrants
- c. Breakdown of conference attendants by province:
 - i. 79 Ontario, 8 QC, 1 Alberta, 10 BC, 2 MB, 11 NB, 4 NS, 2 PEI, 3 SK, 5 NL
- d. Ideas for upcoming meetings:
 - i. MOLECULAR TESTING FOR MRSA AND VRE SCREENING.
 - ii. MOLECULAR TESTING FOR GBS IN VAGINAL/RECTAL SWABS
 - iii. ADVANTAGES/DISADVANTAGES TO MOLECULAR TESTING
 - iv. an update from Health Canada -- it was a real eye opener the last time they were present (2-3 yrs ago)
 - v. about uncertainty of measure determinations; George gave an interesting presentation several years ago, and maybe it's worth hearing about it again; but even more important may be a breakdown and explanation of UM so that the audience can begin to appreciate its utility.
 - vi. Point Of Care Testing for Infectious Diseases
 - vii. Role of sequencing in the identification of never previously described pathogens in humans
 - viii. latest development in Gene sequencing
 - ix. Droplet digital PCR

- x. developing NAATs for differentiating antibiotic resistance bacteria and wild type
- xi. experiences with introducing syndromic multiplex PCR
- xii. experiences with introducing point of care testing methods
- xiii. experiences with introducing full lab automation with smart incubators
- xiv. salivary diagnostics

8. Elections:

- a. VP – J Kus will move from Secretary to VP
- b. Councillors: Prameet, Henry and Natlie remain. Thank you to Stephanie and Tamara for their service.
- c. 3 positions available for Councillor:
 - i. Nominated: Danielle Brabant-Kirwan, Sudbury ON, Clin Micro
 - ii. Nominated: Ian Stuart, Fredericton NB, Microbiologist
 - iii. Anita Wong, Edmonton AB, MLT
 - iv. Angela Bonneau, Ottawa ON, MLT

Candidates left the room and vote was by show of hands, 3 head-to-head rounds.

- v. Round 1 MLTs: AW – 12, AB – 6 → Anita Wong
- vi. Round 2 Micros: DBK – 15, IS – 9 → Danielle Brabant-Kirwan
- vii. Round 3: IS – 7, AB – 10 → Angela Bonneau