



**AS4SAN Annual General Meeting Minutes**

*28<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 2:30pm*

**Email:** Travis Wearne (Secretary) at [as4saninc@gmail.com](mailto:as4saninc@gmail.com)

**In-Person Attendees:** Sarah Whittle, Pascal Molenberghs, Nandita Vijayakumar, Juan Dominguez, Po-Han Kung, Emily S. Cross, Alec Jamieson, Daniel Bennett, Divyangana Rakesh, Simone Mizzi, Saampras Ganesan, Zac Coates, Isabella Bower, Milan Andrejevic Johanna Voeste, Rebecca Cooper, Talitha Ford, Felicity Bigelow, Patrick Laing, Harrison Paff, Rosa M. Sola Molina, Annalee Cobden, Erin Beech, Sylvia Lin, Kavisha Binura Fernando, Eleanor Moses, Gemma Lamp, Elena Pozzi, Trevor Steward, Michelle Byrne James Agathos, Jake Burnett, Peter Enticott, Sevil Ince, Christine Leonards

**Virtual Attendees:** Stephanie Wong, Irene Plank, Gina Grimshaw, Hannah Savage, Travis Wearne, Fiona Kumfor, Eric Vanman, Jessica Hazelton, Kimberley Wallis, Grace Wei, Alan Pegna, Isabelle Kaiko, Suzanne Rienks, Halle Quang, Sherry Chen, Michelle Kelly, James Bender.

1. Welcome to AGM (Sarah Whittle, President)

Sarah welcomed everyone to the AGM. She explained all registrants of the 2021 conference were now formal members of the society for the next 12 months. She asked for virtual attendees to type their name into the chat function in order to record attendance. She then explained the outline and structure of the Annual General Meeting.



2. Confirmation of minutes from the 2019 Annual General Meeting (Sarah Whittle)

The 2020 AGM minutes were confirmed by Pascal Molenberghs and Michelle Kelly

3. Current Committee Members (Sarah Whittle)

- Executive Committee: Sarah Whittle (President), Fiona Kumfor (Vice President), Pascal Molenberghs (Treasurer), Travis Wearne (Secretary)
- General Members: Ute Kreplin, Nandita Vijayakumar, Jessica Hazelton, Juan Dominguez, Sherry Chen, Michelle Kelly

4. Overview of achievements in the last 12 months (Sarah Whittle)

Sarah gave an overview of the achievement of the AS4SAN society in the past 12 months, highlighting the following areas:

- Position paper regarding social, cognitive neuroscience in the Australasian region published in *Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*

Sarah advised that the survey of the AS4SAN membership, with data on publications, grants and the contributions of Australia to Social and Affective Neuroscience was accepted and published in '*Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*'. A link to the paper was provided in the conference program and she recommended attendees read the manuscript.

- SANS Global Panel



Sarah reported that due to the position paper, AS4SAN received an invitation to join a global panel discussion at the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society annual meeting in 2021. Sarah represented the society on the panel. The panel discussed different challenges for respective societies and potential ways these communities could come together globally. Ideas included a co-authored position paper on the global landscape of social and affective neuroscience, together with a potential shared data bank.

- FoR Code Submission

In 2019/2020 there was a request from the Australian Research Council (ARC) for feedback on proposed changes to the FoR (Field of Research) codes. Michelle Kelly led an application to the ARC highlighting the need for Social and Affective Neuroscience to be represented in the new FoR codes. The application was successful and 'Social and Affective Neuroscience' is now represented by an individual code - 520207. Sarah recommended that members start to use the code for grant submissions in order to build the field in Australia.

- Increase media/outreach

Sarah reported that another of AS4SAN's goals was to increase our social media presence. We have been working consistently on this over the past 12 months across a number of platforms. We have a Twitter account (424 followers), Facebook (659 followers) and Weibo pages (for Chinese members who could not access Facebook; 30 followers with over 18920 reads on posts).

- YouTube Channel



Sarah advised that AS4SAN launched a YouTube Channel ('A Society for Brains') at the conference and this coincided with the YouTube Channel competition.

- Specific Benefits to Members

Sarah said that AS4SAN wants to ensure membership is worthwhile and beneficial. She advised that the society has been focusing on award and grant opportunities for members, such as conference travel grants. She also advised that all recordings from the 2021 conference would be available for AS4SAN members. She welcomed any other ideas from members on how the society can best support its members.

- Outreach and Engagement

Sarah advised that the society was interested in becoming more involved in outreach with the general community, such as via public talks or through a program for National Science Week. In light of COVID there was a shift in moving our focus to the YouTube channel, and putting up videos that would have appeal to lay audience. There would be greater scope for more community-based engagement in the future.

#### Financial Report (Pascal Molenberghs, Treasurer)

• Income:	Surplus carried forward	+\$20357.97
	Income from 2019 conference	+\$7991.48
	Membership	+\$50
	Sponsorship 2020	+\$1500.00
• Expenses:	Publication fees	-\$1989.90



**AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY**  
FOR **SOCIAL & AFFECTIVE NEUROSCIENCE**

Dinner Deposit	-\$200.00
• <b>Surplus for the Period (Assets):</b>	<b>+\$27909.55</b>
• Liabilities: Cash in Bank	<b>+\$27909.55</b>
• <b>Owner's Equity:</b>	<b>+\$27909.55</b>

5. Confirmation or vary the amounts of the annual subscription and joining fee

Sarah raised whether there should be any variations in the membership fees. Currently there are two avenues prospective members can join the society: Attend the annual conference or can join via the website. Given the COVID 19 and postponement of the conference in 2020, members were offered opt-in free ongoing membership until the 2021 conference. A vote was taken whether to keep membership should remain \$50 per society year. Result of vote: Keep the membership the same

6. Projects for 2021-2022

Sarah advised that there was a greater desire from the society for further engagement and outreach with our members. She then asked the members of the society would like in terms of benefit and engagement. She advised that there would be increased content on the YouTube channel and asked for content from the society membership. There would be potential for further involvement in the AS4SAN mentorship program. The society is also pushing for further engagement with other groups with the broader Australasian region.

7. Conference



Sarah advised that no location for the 2022 conference had been set. She asked if anyone would be interested in hosting the conference.

8. New Committee Members

Sarah asked if any attendee was eager to join the committee or there were any particular projects members would be interested in pursuing via the society.

9. Other Business?

Nil

**Meeting Closed: 2:52pm**