

Draft Minutes

Present:

Board Members: Nicki Credland (NC), Karin Gerber (KG), Trish McCready (TM), Catherine Plowright (CP), Louise Stayt (LS) Amy Pulley (AEP), Colette Laws-Chapman (CLC), Mark Wilson (MW) and Suzanne Bench (SB).

Apologies: Ann Price (AP), David Waters (DW).

Echo: Sarah Gilliland (SG)

1. Debrief Post Virtual Conference 2020

Karin thanked the committee for all their help and support with the conference. She shared a presentation with a collage of participant faces on screen, and included screen shots of great social media feedback. She also shared a spreadsheet with a breakdown of visitors to presentations and exhibitor profiles. The numbers, in particular visits to exhibitors, were higher than she would expect in a face to face conference. In summary she felt it went very well, couldn't have asked for a better conference under the circumstances, that BACCN have led the way and already other organisations (ARCP and ICS) are asking us for advice on how to run a Virtual Conference.

SG reported membership up to 1891, from 1784 (an increase of 107) at last meeting in June. KG commented it would be interesting to see if we keep these members once the year is up.

NC thought it was outstanding, despite difficulties with the platform providers, from a delegate point of view they did not pick up on all the issues that we did. There was much positive, and no negative, feedback on social media. BACCN have pushed the boundaries by having a virtual conference. She extended a massive thank you to KG, appreciating the phenomenal amount of work she had done and all credit to her for super couple of days.

KG would like to know if we can see if regional members were logged on. IN reported he had engaged with quite a few of them on SM. Others saw strong regional presence in sessions. We have seen the benefits of a virtual element – for example many could not have attended if not virtually, plus we can get people from further afield, as we did this time (Singapore, China, Australia and Saudi).

A hybrid of face to face and virtual is definitely the way forward for next year particularly since it is being held in Belfast and many from England, Scotland and Wales may not want to travel, and to cover all eventualities in case face to face cannot go ahead.

Recorded presentations allowed people to perfect their presentations and be more confident, and worked well to keep to timings. Workshops and breakout sessions are better suited to real life.

KG hoped she played to strengths amongst the board with people stepping in on short notice to support sessions.

Next Conferences

KG aims to launch call out for the 2021 conference by the end of September. We are planning on 6 keynotes, we have asked for 2 or 3 from IACCN, and will ask for an IACCN representative on to the scientific committee, and to chair some of the sessions, but BACCN will take the lead. If we make a profit they will get 10%. Asking for one key contact from them to liaise. She asked the committee to suggest keynote speakers and subjects for next year. Great feedback on involvement of relatives and patients. Maybe have a stream for them? The overall theme is Critical Care Across the World - breaking down barriers. Suggestions included Bronagh Blackwood, president of ESNO Adriano F, Bronwyn Connolly, Julie Highfield role on ICS around wellbeing which CP and LS involved in, Julie Coombes on workforce modelling and the ICU steps group(s) in Dublin and Belfast.

Finance

In March we financially predicted a £10-£15k loss, and we are currently at +/- £14k loss. This is provisional and depends on what we do with All in the Loop and some of the sponsors. Nicole Dixon has taken brunt of feedback from irate sponsors and exhibitors. NC thinks the very positive figures re visitors to sessions may mitigate some of this, i.e. the vast majority of sponsors were seeing more visitors than in a face to face conference. Also sponsors and exhibitors can theoretically be contacted further down the line. It was also noted that Linet was on every slide. A virtual conference is not cheap – especially if no income coming in. NC and KG are considering negotiating the All in the Loop bill. The bottom line cost without income was +/- £40k – mainly All in the Loop platform, some cancellation fees to stand manufacture for Nottingham, extra support from CPS and the venue itself. We also had our normal conference fee to Echo. Going forward we would have more income. We can offer different packages at different costs be priced for just keynotes, or just streamed sessions or virtual and real. KG will look at what other conferences are charging. SB shared that the cost for the upcoming Johns Hopkins conference – costs \$790 for two days and a pre-conference session of 7 hours at \$295. It would also be interesting to see what company ASPIH use (CLC involved).

Upcoming conferences

Upcoming conference locations will be Belfast for 2021, then Newcastle / Birmingham / Manchester in 2022 with Nottingham in 2023.

Abstracts

NC thought that all being on scientific committee is good, SB suggested it might be better to split into groups, each represented by e.g. researcher, practitioner etc. CP likes looking at all of them as people submit the same thing with only a slight difference. KG – to split requires a lot of work as they print off as one PDF. MW – can they be numbered and one team does odd? KG will look at how to split the abstracts – so that everyone can see all, but only vote on their group. SB would like to have word count checked before they come to us. KG said word count is written at top but when we wanted better content we split into boxes and then we couldn't limit word count, she will look into this. We had given feedback after review to ask for people to reduce word count. We had to do a lot of remedial work on at least 4 abstracts because content was potentially good. LS suggested abstract streams would be decided as submissions came in and themes became clear. KG said four streams had pushed the technological limit. SB feels less is more – less streams might be better.

Platform

MW/SB when we next choose a platform, we have a better idea of what we need. SB felt it would have been useful to do a proper dummy run beforehand and all would have been more confident on the day. KG this was always the plan, and will definitely be there in future. ECHO and CPS fielded an incredible amount of phone calls and e-mails and we wouldn't have been there if it wasn't for them.

Zoom calls with platform developers should be recorded in future for a record of what is said.

There will be a formal post conference report in the next few weeks.

Dragons Den

KG asked for reflections on Dragon's Den. We had had three submissions - two improvement projects and one research. The winner was Lisa McDonnell a staff nurse from George Elliot Hospital, an ICU unit with no rehab support, trying to develop CC rehab table. Agreed to keep DD as a closed format.

Every year we have had only three submissions and all three have luckily been worthy of going through. Suggested more push on SM and interviews with winners to encourage submissions? If CLC looking for an Espresso session this could include a chat with a winner. We could have put abstracts onto the platform. SB will write a paragraph on successful DD and BAME Grant and send to MW for the journal today. KG will do interviews with previous winners to encourage applications for the future. Agreed to keep a patient judge on the Dragons' Den (Louise this year was excellent) and that DD will be virtual.

Best Abstract

The process of selection and the presentation went great. Two people had the job to go through the abstracts and do the same next year, although this can be done pre-conference. IN can do a recorded zoom with the winner and we can upload to the web and the YouTube channel. KG also plans to upload snapshots of presentations on to YouTube.

Board Membership

SB raised that we need to talk about board membership, now that VG and AP have stepped down. SG from Echo to follow up with those who expressed an interest. It would be nice to invite anyone we have screened to Nov meeting which is part of the process before we co-opt them.

2. Next Meeting

Board to send preferred date to SB, Fri 13th or Saturday 14 November. The meeting will be online.

Dates for rest of year will be set at November meeting