



**MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Date: Thursday, June 17, 2021
Time: 1705 – 1735 EST
Location: Virtual Conference Zoom
Chair: Anne Crocker– President IAFMHS

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. President’s Report and BOD Updates

- Anne Crocker welcomed members to the second and hopefully last virtual AGM. Anne Crocker thanked Yanick Charette and Ashley Dunne for putting together the conference as quickly as they did. She also thanked Patricia Zapf, Amber Watkins, Samuel DuPont, and their team at CONCEPT. She also extended gratitude and appreciation for our Australian and New Zealander colleagues for joining us at the conference and accommodating the time difference.
- Anne Crocker reported there were 290 attendees, including 90 students, from 22 countries at this year’s virtual conference. She thanked the Board of Directors for being flexible and making meetings and decision happen quickly to adapt to the unfolding situation.
- Anne Crocker updated that there will be no announcement on the 2022 conference at this time. She noted the 2022 conference was initially planned for Sydney, Australia, but the Australian government had recently announced a ban on events and large meetings at least for the first half of 2022. As such, we will be seeking alternative host city for the 2022 conference.

- In this vein, Anne Crocker announced we have established a standing conference committee, and Barry Rosenfeld has graciously accepted to chair this committee. This will help us stay on top of things and continue to be flexible and adapt to new situations.
- Anne Crocker also updated that the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (EDIC) established last year and co-chaired by Brian McKenna and Sarah Schaaf have been going well. They have been meeting monthly and doing great work.
- Anne Crocker updated there were no Advisory Board and Board of Directors meetings during the conference this year due to time constraints. We will schedule one for later in the summer.
- Anne Crocker noted the great work Sarah Coupland has been doing with the newsletter with over 650 readers. She announced that Sarah Coupland is currently seeking an associate editor.
- Anne Crocker updated our membership numbers has been stable in the past year. Some projects undertaken this year included the COVID-19 compendium to help pool resources for members. She indicated this is one way for the Association to be helpful to members and to help collect resources and expertise across the various areas.
- Anne Crocker announced Quazi Haque will be taking over as incoming President. She thanked the Board of Directors for their work and support over the past two years. The Association is now seeking nominations for President-Elect, with nomination deadline of July 1, 2021. An email will be going out shortly after the conference with more details. Anne Crocker encouraged all standing members to consider nominating themselves for this position and to get involved with the Association.

3. Treasurer's Report

- Robert Leark thanked Anne Crocker for her work and leading the Association through the past two years.
- Robert Leark updated that the Association's finances are stable, and we have operated within our budget. The membership numbers are stable with over 300 members globally, including approximately 100 students. Robert Leark updated we continue to have our cash reserves on hold and have not needed to use them.
- Robert Leark reported that this year's conference was a partnership with CONCEPT and thanked them for their hard work. He also thanked the sponsors for helping make this conference happen and noted with their support, we might break even for this conference. He noted we have intentionally kept conference rates low for members.
- Robert Leark updated on the Derek Eaves Research Grant and reported we have disbursed nine \$500 grants to students this past year. The Derek Eaves fund is kept in a separate account and still healthy, although this year we would not have an injection of funds coming from the profits of the conference.
- Robert Leark updated he will be working with the Emerging Forensic Systems SIG and continue to offer reduced conference fees, memberships, and grants to individuals from emerging economies.

4. Journal Report

- Michael Daffern acknowledged and thanked the various associate editors—Dr Lauren Kois, Dr Stephanie Penney, Dr Jamie Livingston, Prof. Stuart Thomas, Prof. Brian McKenna, Dr Matt Huss—editorial assistant, Riley Luke. Dr. Matt Huss has stepped down as associate editor but will continue to oversee the few remaining manuscript.
- Michael Daffern updated that he would refresh the editorial board annually. He noted the biggest challenge for the journal is to ensure an

adequate pool of reviewers who will complete the review timely. He wants the journal to have a reputation for timeliness and this is really dependent on the reviewers.

- Michael Daffern presented a snapshot of article titles and highlighted that the journal covers a broad cross-section of topics of interest to the association. He reported there are enough backlog of papers for the next two issues.
- Michael Daffern reported there were no reductions in the number of submissions to the journal in the past year despite the pandemic, although there may be reduction in the coming years if there were research project disruptions. He further noted we received submissions from around the world, although mostly North America and Europe, and this distribution has not change due to the pandemic. Likewise, he reported the acceptance rate of the journal has been quite stable despite the change of Editor-in-Chief.
- Anne Crocker suggested having a special issue looking at the short-, medium-, and long-term impact of Covid on forensic mental health. Michael Daffern concurred it was a good idea and is seeking suggestions for other topics for special issues.
- Adegboyega Ogunwale asked about the proportion of papers from Africa and other emerging economies and the rejection rates for those. Michael Daffern responded no submissions were received from Africa in the last year, and some small number from Central and South America. He does not have the numbers available right now but can look at them more closely after the meeting. Adegboyega Ogunwale noted he would encourage the Emerging Forensic System SIG members to submit to the journal.

- Tonia Nicholls noted that as editor, they needed to balance between facilitating and support research and publication from emerging economics with ensuring quality and timely publications for the journal and that this can be a difficult balance to strike.

5. Student Board Report

- Sarah Schaaf introduced the Student Board and noted they have more international and diverse representation on the board this year. She updated that the Student Board continued the various initiative and programs, and they have been progressing at a steady pace. Some new initiatives this year included having a newsletter column spotlighting past Student Board presidents. As well, they have introduced a new webinar series and have conducted three so far, with more planned for the upcoming months.

6. Next Meeting; TBD