

Minutes

2022 APBG Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Date: 2 December 2022

Location: The George Institute, The HUB, Level 5, 1 King St, Newtown, and online

Time: 2-3pm (AGM only)

Agenda

Item	
Welcome and apologies	Sandra Louw
2. Confirmation of previous minutes (2021 AGM)	Sandra Louw
3. Chair's Report	Sandra Louw
4. Treasurer's Report	Philip McCloud
5. Election of 2023 Steering Committee roles	Sandra Louw
6. Discussion items	All
Topics of interest for next year	
Feedback/suggestions for steering committee	
8. Any other business	All
9. Date and time of next meeting	Sandra Louw
10. AGM Close 3pm	

Attendees:

Sandra Louw (Chair)

Alan Brnabic

Annie Solterbeck

Belinda Butcher

Elisa Young

Fiona Telfer

Manjula Schou

Michael Fitzgerald

Murphy Sumiran

Philip McCloud

Richard Hutchinson

William Reece

Minutes

Meeting opened

2:02pm

Welcome and apologies

Sandra welcomed the group and acknowledged the Traditional Owners. William Reece provided his apologies.

Confirmation of previous minutes

The previous minutes were viewed.

Alan Brnabic moved these be accepted, and Fiona seconded this. No objections, and the motion was carried that the minutes of 2021 are confirmed.

Chair's Report

Sandra presented the Chair's report. The report is copied below.

"2022 marked another great year for the APBG. We started the year in the midst of a COVID wave, after two years of lockdowns but we didn't let that stop us!

Our first project of the year was to complete the Statistics and Data Science Collaboration scholarship established by the 2021 steering committee under the leadership of Alan Brnabic, and in collaboration with the Statistical Society of Australia. Our past Chair Alan continued to play an instrumental role on the scholarship program this year until it's completion I'd like to thank him for all his hard work.

This scholarship was the first of its kind for our group and was inspired by last year's webinar on data science. We wondered, can statisticians and data scientists collaborate to solve important medical questions? We offered a \$2000 scholarship for two successful candidates – one statistician and one data scientist to work together to answer this question. The winners were - statistician Bob Xia and data scientist Sarthak Das.

Bob and Sarthak were given a dummy real world dataset and asked to estimate the treatment effect on the outcome of interest, adjusting for measured confounders. They were also asked to discuss how their approaches were different and how they resolved any methodological differences between the data scientist and statistician. You may recall Bob and Sarthak gave an introduction to the project at last year's AGM.

In April this year, after a lot of hard work and some mentoring from Alan and myself, Bob and Sarthak presented the results of their project to our members at an APBG webinar and did a fantastic job.

Our next event was in July this year when we were lucky enough to be able meet face-to-face for the first time since 2019! The occasion was our mid-year meeting at the George Institute. The meeting was a hybrid event with many members joining online from as far away as Perth. We enjoyed two fascinating presentations – Getting to the CORE of CDISC by Dr Elisa Young, and Flexible Models for Clustered Design by Dr Helen Ogden. It was a great meeting and so good to see everyone again. Thank you to Elisa and Helen for presenting.

Responding to our members requests to learn more about estimands, in October we flew out world famous statistician and expert on the topic, Dr Frank Bretz to conduct a two day workshop on “Estimands, Estimators, and Estimates: Aligning the Target of Estimation, Method of Estimation, and Sensitivity Analysis.” We held the course at the Macquarie University City Campus and also online and had 24 very enthusiastic attendees. It was a very interesting and educational two days. We also took the chance to have a networking dinner and 11 of us went out to dinner at Barangaroo with Frank, which was a really high spirited occasion! Thank you to Frank for all his efforts in coming out to Australia and presenting to us for two days!

Our final event of the year is the End of Year meeting which we are at right now and I can’t wait to hear Dr William Reece’s presentation on Early Phase Oncology Trials after this AGM.

Aside from the fabulous opportunities we’ve had to learn and network both online and in person this year, we’ve increased our membership by 27 statisticians join our mailing list! Our new members include some old members who lost contact over the years and have rejoined, as well as new statisticians entering the industry, and experienced statisticians finding us for the first time. The new members reached us via word of mouth, through seeing our events advertised on the SSA website and LinkedIn, as well as through our APBG website, which we continually updated this year. It’s great to be growing and we look forward to seeing our 27 new members at our events over the next few years.

I’d like to thank the Steering Committee for their support and hard work – Belinda Butcher, our secretary who has the amazing ability to type, talk, and listen at the same time, Michael Fitzgerald our Vice-Chair who always has something helpful to say and put us in touch with Frank, and Philip McCloud our treasurer, who is always ready with the company credit card to make things happen!

Finally, thank you to all our members who are so engaged and enthusiastic. We love seeing you at events and look forward to another great year in 2023.”

Richard moved the 2022 Chairs Report be accepted, and seconded by Alan Brnabic. All were in acceptance, and the motion was carried.

Treasurer’s Report

Michael presented the Treasurer’s report for 2022 as below.

APBG INCOME and EXPENDITURE 01 JULY 2021 to 30 JUNE 2022

	OPENING BALANCE 1 JULY 2021	8,466.89
DATE	INCOME	
	Nil	0.00
	TOTAL	8,466.89
DATE	EXPENDITURE	
11-Apr-22	Scholarships - Data Scientist versus Statistician	4,000.00
	Bank Fees Aug-Jul	120.00
	Total Expenditure	4,120.00
	CLOSING BALANCE 1 Jul 2022	4,346.89
	TOTAL	8,466.89

Prepared by Philip McCloud on 28th November 2022
Submitted to APBG AGM on 28th November 2022

William moved the report be accepted, Richard accepted. There were no objections, so the motion was passed that the Treasurer's report for 2022 was accepted.

Election of 2023 Steering Committee roles

No nominations were received.

Steering committee for 2023 remained the same as the 2022 committee:

- Sandra Louw (Chair)
- Michael Fitzgerald (Vice Chair)
- Philip McCloud (Treasurer)
- Belinda Butcher (Secretary)

Richard moved the steering committee for 2023 remain the same as the 2022 committee, and William seconded. There were no objections, so the motion was passed.

Discussion items

Topics of interest for next year

At the Estimands workshop, the following topics of interest were raised:

- Missing data
 - Multiple imputation, and MNAR models
 - Application in practice
- Multiplicity
- Estimands in practice (e.g. what is written in practice, review of published protocols)
- Adaptive study design
 - Alternatives to 3+3
 - Bayesian Optimal Interval Design (BOIN)
- Repeated measurements
 - What is accepted, and what drives these considerations
 - Need to find a person experienced in discussing this with regulatory agencies e.g. FDA
- Pharmacokinetics
 - Compartment analysis
 - Simulations
 - From both a statistical and kineticist point of view; how the communication between the two works (Glynn Morrish [Avance Clinical], Andrew McLachlan [University of Sydney], Bruce Green [Parexel], or Craig Rayner [Monash])
- Health economics and the role of the statistician in health economics
 - Manjula Schou could speak as a statistician working in this area
 - Dr Laura Flight [University of Sheffield] as a health economist
 - There was an APBG presentation on this previously by Manjula at the 2019 mid-year seminar.

The group agreed that workshop style is preferred to lecture style.

Feedback/suggestions for steering committee

One question was ‘what are we doing with young statisticians’? The group agreed it would be good to target this group, and perhaps link in the with the SSA and their program. The group agreed that another stream with more basic educational events could be considered, such as PSI run. For example, on consulting, communication with non-statisticians, and also basic statistical education specific to our industry.

The group agreed we should try and collaborate more with other groups with similar interests, for example, we should also link in with ACTA STiNG (<https://clinicaltrialsalliance.org.au/group/statistics-in-trials-interest-group-sting/>), VicBiostat (<https://www.vicbiostat.org.au>), Australian Trials Methodology Research Network groups.

Any other business

None.

Date and time of next meeting

Next AGM will be held in December 2023, time to be confirmed.

Meeting closed: 2:50pm.