

## SOCIETY FOR ADVANCED CELL CULTURE MODELLING FOR AFRICA AGM 2022

### | Minutes |

<b>Meeting:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Inaugural Annual General Meeting 2022
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	10 October 2022
<b>Time of meeting:</b>	16:00
<b>Meeting room:</b>	Building G20, Room 101, North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus
<b>Meeting chair:</b>	Prof Chrisna Gouws (North-West University)
<b>Minutes:</b>	Dr Janine Aucamp

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- 1 Welcoming**
  - 2 Register and apologies**
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#### **1 Welcoming**

Prof Chrisna Gouws acted as chair for the meeting and welcomed everyone to the second Annual General Meeting (2022) for SACCMA. The meeting was held during the inaugural SACCMA conference 9 - 12 October 2022 at the North-West University (Potchefstroom Campus), South Africa.

#### **2 Register and apologies**

Everyone who attended the meeting signed the printed attendance list.

## Attended

Chair:	Prof Chrisna Gouws	(North-West University)
Attendees:	Beynon Abrahams	(University of the Free State)
	Janine Aucamp	(North-West University)
	Armelle Tchamgoue Deutou Studies (IMPM), Cameroon)	(Institute of Medical Research and Medicinal Plants Studies (IMPM), Cameroon)
	Stella Dozie-Nwachukwu	(Sheda Science and Technology Complex, Nigeria)
	Lissinda du Plessis	(North-West University)
	Hagar Farid Hamed Elbakry	(National Research Center, Egypt)
	Joseph Omorogiuwa Erhabor	(University of Benin, Nigeria)
	Tracey Hurrell	(CSIR)
	Magdalena Kasendra	(Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Centre, USA)
	Thashree Marimuthu	(University of the Witwatersrand)
	Holisha Moodley	(Separations)
	Jerolen Naidoo	(CSIR)
	Mandy Naude	(University of Pretoria)
	Vidushi Neergheen	(University of Mauritius)
	Adele Nel	(University of Pretoria)
	Olakunle Oladimeji	(North-West University)
	Wihan Pheiffer	(North-West University)
Janine Scholefield	(CSIR)	
Mduduzi Sithole	(University of the Witwatersrand)	
Talita Turvey	(Separations)	
Iman van den Bout	(University of Pretoria)	

**Apologies were received** from Prof Minja Gerber and Dr Clarissa Willers from the North-West University.

The committee chair was appointed as proxy for Prof Minja Gerber and Dr Clarissa Willers.

### 3 Minutes of the 2021 AGM:

No changes and additions to the minutes of the previous AGM were requested. Approval of the minutes was proposed by Beynon Abrahams and seconded by Chrisna Gouws.

### 4 Chair's report

Chrisna Gouws reported that 35 official members were registered to SACCMA by the start of the AGM. The following funding sources for SACCMA activities were reported. For the October 2022 inaugural SACCMA conference, funding was obtained from the South African National Conference Bureau. SACCMA running costs were subsidised through a North-West University grant but has been depleted. It has been determined that for continued financial viability, a membership fee increase will be required.

## **5 Appointment of accountant and auditors**

Chrisna Gouws motioned for the reappointment of the current accountant and auditors (Christelle Swanepoel from Focus Accounting Solutions). Approval of reappointment was motioned by Chrisna Gouws and seconded by Iman van den Bout.

## **6 Executive committee:**

### **a. Nominations 2022**

Since only one nomination per seat was received, Chrisna Gouws asked whether the list of nominees prepared prior to the AGM only should be used, or whether nominations from the floor should be included for voting. Approval of the prepared list of nominees was supported by Janine Aucamp and seconded by Stella Dozie-Nwachukwu.

### **b. Nominated committee**

The following nominations were voted as the new committee members:

Vice chair	Dr Beynon Abrahams
Secretary	Dr Janine Aucamp
Chair	Prof Chrisna Gouws
Treasurer	Dr Iman van den Bout
Convenor of next conference	Dr Wihan Pheiffer
Student member representative	Mandy Naude

## **7 Conference and workshop**

### **a. Conference 2023**

Chrisna Gouws asked for suggestions regarding the frequency and locations of future conferences. Following discussions it was confirmed that as stated in the Society Constitution, conferences are to be held every second year. It was also proposed that the North and South-based institution should alternate hosting to promote accessibility to the conferences across South Africa, and at a later stage also other African countries.

Furthermore, it was proposed that since there were so many societies having conferences in 2022, SACCMA should have another conference in 2023 to shift to the odd years. This would also help to keep momentum for the society.

As the next conference will be in 2023, one year after the inaugural conference, the length and location of the conference were discussed. By vote it was agreed that the 2023 conference will be shortened to two days and will again be hosted by the North-West University. Accordingly, Dr Wihan Pheiffer was nominated and successfully voted as the convenor of the 2023 conference.

Proposed by Lissinda du Plessis and seconded by Iman van den Bout.

### **b. Workshop 2023**

Chrisna Gouws put forth the question whether the next workshop(s) should be combined with the conference or held separately. It was agreed that the workshop(s) could be arranged as separate event(s) or in combination with the conferences. Separations already indicated in 2021 that they would host a workshop together with the 2023 conference.

## 8 Constitution amendments

Chrisna Gouws noted that the constitution stipulates that the term of office for committee members is from one AGM to the next, i.e. one year, and asked for comments if this should be longer. It was proposed that this duration should be changed to either every two/three years or from one conference to the next. By vote the following amendment of point 5.12 of the constitution was approved:

*The term of office for committee members will be changed to "from one conference to the next", i.e. two years.*

## 9 Membership fees

Chrisna Gouws noted that the current membership fees are R200.00 p.a. for full membership and R100 p.a. for student membership. For continued funding of the society, a fee increase was proposed. The proposed increase was R300 p.a. for full membership and R150 p.a. for student membership. By vote the proposed price increases were approved for the next financial year.

## 10 Working groups proposal

Due to the different technologies and fields within SACCMA, Chrisna Gouws proposed the formation of informal working groups among members with similar research interests. She provides an example of a working group between ClinoStar users with bi-monthly virtual meetings.

This proposal has been left open for interested members. Those who are interested in forming and/or joining a working group can contact Chrisna Gouws for assistance.

## 11 Closing

An advertisement was presented for the Microphysiological Systems (MPS) World Summit to be held 26 - 30 June 2023 in Berlin, Germany.

Chrisna Gouws thanked the attendees and the meeting was concluded at 17:20.

### Steering committee/Directors of Organization:



2023/03/09

Prof Chrisna Gouws

Date



\_\_\_\_\_

2023/03/13

Dr Iman van den Bout

Date



\_\_\_\_\_

2023/03/14

Dr Clarissa Willers

Date