

MINUTES

Friday 27 November 2020
11.00m to 12.00pm (AEDT)

Via Zoom

Attendees: Nicole Kiss, Merran Findlay, Jenelle Loeliger, Judy Bauer, Jane Stewart, Rebecca McIntosh, Cindy Tan, Louise Moodie, Lizzy Johnston
Apologies: Julia McLean, Hattie Wright, Belinda Steer

1. Welcome

NK welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Conflicts of Interest

No COI were declared.

3. Membership

NK reported the nutrition groups currently has 93 members of which 43 are group members and 50 indicated nutrition as an area of interest. Numbers are higher than this time last year which is an excellent outcome for the group given most groups saw reduced member numbers this year.

4. Update on 2020 activities

4.1. 2020 ASM

The 2020 COSA ASM was held virtually for the first time and was a great success. The Dietitians Australia external conference research prize was offered for the 3rd year in a row at the COSA conference with the winner for 2020 being Irene Deftereos who presented her research on a multisite implementation of a nutrition care pathway for upper GI cancer in the best of the best implementation science session. Additional nutrition presentations in the program included Irene Deftereos presenting on the Australia wide NOURISH point prevalence study in upper GI cancer in the variations in care session as well as a good representation of nutrition research in the conference posters. NK thanked nutrition group representative on the organising committee Katie Benton. JB mentioned there was less nutrition content this year than previously. NK commented that there was a focus this year on multidisciplinary sessions rather than specific discipline sessions in order to maximise interest and engagement in the sessions, but the group can keep this in mind in future. JB raised the idea of the submitted symposiums as an option for nutrition specific content.

4.2. Position statement

The cancer-related malnutrition and sarcopenia position statement was launched in August. The position statement is available on the COSA website along with supporting resources including an infographic and care pathway. The infographic is intended for use in clinical areas to remind health professionals to consider malnutrition and sarcopenia during patient consultations. The care pathway is intended as a guide for health services to advocate for optimal care. The next steps for the group is supporting implementation of the position statement. JB raised concern that the position statement launch was not as strong as the exercise position statement and that when the head and neck guidelines were released workshops were held with case studies to support implementation. NK commented that a workshop had been planned at the COSA conference related to implementation of all the COSA position statements but was cancelled when the event converted to virtual. Likewise, a workshop had been planned for the Dietitians Australia conference however, this conference was scaled down when it converted to virtual and workshops were not held. NK asked the group if there was interest

in submitting a workshop application for the Dietitians Australia 2021 conference. The group agreed this would be worthwhile. Consideration of a workshop at COSA to be considered also. LJ raised the idea of collaborating with other COSA groups such as the exercise group. The group also agreed this could be explored.

4.3. H&N EBG

A small amount of funding was received to support the update of these guidelines. MF reported the key questions requiring updating have been completed, in part using these funds to employ Natalie Stapleton to complete some questions and through the use of Masters of Dietetics students to complete additional questions within elements of their course. There are ongoing challenges with the update to the Wiki platform which are being worked through at the moment. One of which is a new requirement to have NHMRC endorsement of the guidelines which is a long process. MF and JB will be receiving training in the Wiki platform to facilitate this process.

5. Plans for 2021 activities

5.1. Changes in group leadership/ portfolios

NK will be stepping down as Chair of the nutrition group at the end of the year. Congratulations to Merran Findlay who will be commencing as Chair in the new year. Two members of the nutrition group executive also stepped down this year and a recent EOI was circulated through COSA for new members to join the executive. There was an excellent response to the EOI with more applications than places to fill on the executive and excellent applicants. The new members were chosen based on diversity in geographical location, practice areas and gaps in skills on the current executive. New executive members are Teresa Brown, Belinda Steer, Irene Deftereos, Lauren Atkins, Louise Moodie and Emily Jeffery. The idea will be to create specific portfolios for executive members to work on which will be discussed further at a group executive meeting in February.

5.2. 2021 ASM

The theme and organising committee for the 2021 conference are yet to be determined. The conference will be held in Melbourne and Marie Malica has confirmed the group can have a representative on the organising committee. JL indicated she is interested in this role, although is happy for others to nominate themselves if interested.

5.3. Ideas?

NK discussed an initiative undertaken by the COSA survivorship group involving offering a fellowship within their group. This involves survivorship group projects completed by fellows in a voluntary capacity with mentoring from the group executive. NK asked if there is interest among the nutrition group in offering fellowships to complete projects identified by the group. There was agreement from the group that this is worth pursuing and will be discussed further at the executive group meeting.

6. Other Business

Nil raised

7. Next Meeting

AGM at next ASM in November 2021.

Group executive meeting in February 2021.