

AWTRS Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 24th November 2020 4pm AEDT

Zoom Webinar

In attendance:

Brooke Farrugia (BF), Pritinder Kaur (PK), Stuart Mills (SM), Allison Cowin (AC), Xanthe Strudwick (XS), Lyn Wise (LW), Rachael Murray (RM), Andrew Stevenson (AS), Zlatko Kopecki (AK), Stuart Pitson, Jiao Jiao Li (JL), Huan Ting Ong (HTO), Zoe West, Ziyu Wang, Anna Guller, Zenjun Deng, Nikki Lansdown, Shuji Mizumoto, Alireza Hassanshahi and Sammi Ngai.

President's Report

- The AWTRS travel award recipients were announced as Chris Turner and Katie Sizeland.
- The AWTRS conference attendance awards were given to Hanif Haidari (UniSA), Savannah Aticheson (QUT), Zalitha Pieterse (Curtin U), Ziyu Wang (USyd) and Zoe West (QUT).
- BF gave a summary of the 2020 Pan Pacific Connective tissue symposium which had 122 attendees and was held in conjunction with the Matrix Biology Society of Australia and New Zealand
- The major sponsors of the 2020 Pan Pacific Symposium were: Phoenix Eagle, University of Melbourne, Future Industries Institute, Lonza and PeproTech.
- BK also thanked all the committee throughout the year for their help.
- The report was seconded by RM and PK

Treasurer's Report

- AC reported that the opening balance of the AWTRS was \$41,911.70 and the closing balance was \$46,790.89 with a profit of \$5703.41 being made.
- Profit was made from memberships (\$4390) and the 2019 Symposium (\$2521.70).
- Expenditures included: Small Talk Events, AWTRS website grants and travel awards.
- The report was seconded by RM and BF

Secretary's Report

- SM announced that membership started with 57 members and had risen to 62 financial members.
- 32 memberships are due to expire on 31.12.2020.
- The report was seconded by BF and RM.

ECR report

- XS reported that the AWTRS along with the Matrix Biology Society of Australia and New Zealand applied for the Theo Murphy Initiative EMCR Program but only a small amount of the money was available due to Covid-19.
- This money was used to organise the Techniques Toolbox seminar, immediately after the AGM, and a trivia night.
- The AWTRS supported 5 conference support awards for ECRs.
- XS also announced that there would also now be two AWTRS ECR awards in the form of a Young Investigator award (for members awarded their PhD within 2 years of application) and a EMCR award (for members awarded their PhD within 3-10 year of application).
XS also mentioned the AWTRS newsletter and twitter account.
- This report was seconded by PK and RM.

Questions

- RM asked if articles in the newsletter could be linked to the twitter account. It was discussed and thought that links to PDF reports on the website could be linked to the twitter account.

Nominations for positions

- Zoe West asked for the nominations for President and BF was nominated in again as President.
- PK was nominated in again as Vice President, LW was voted in as Secretary, AC was voted in again as Treasurer and XS was voted in again as ECR representative.
- General members voted in were SM, ZK, AS, JIL, RM and HTO.