



AO UK

**AO United Kingdom & IRELAND (AOUK&I)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – HELD AT ALTON TOWERS HOTEL
ON SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2017.**

JD welcomed all to the AGM.

UPDATES:

Jon Dwyer (JSDM) informed the Annual General Meeting (AGM):

- 1) Jon Monk (JM) had been appointed AOTrauma Europe (AOTEu) Education Committee Chair.
- 2) Mark Jackson (MJ) and Iain McFadyen (IMcF) had been appointed as AOUK & Ireland joint chairpersons.
- 3) Shaun O'Brien (SO'B) had completed his term of office as AOUK & I trauma chairperson and that following successful application Damian McClelland (DMcC) would succeed him.
- 4) SO'B had been invited to become an AOUK&I Trustee – which he had accepted.
- 5) Kevin Smith's (KDS) term of office as an AOUK & I Trustee had come to an end and the Board of AOUK&I Trustees invited KDS to stay on as a Trustee for a further two years due to the number of changes occurring at present within AO and the consequential changes affecting AOUK&I – which he had accepted.

JSDM explained that the whole system of funding educational activity by the AO was changing. In the past AOUK&I had been directly funded as one of the 5 original national sections of the AO Foundation (AOF). JSDM explained that whilst initially with the development of the concept of a Global AO with the Foundation continuing research and development and the development of the separate educational structure that has become AO Trauma (AOT) with 5 AOT international regions (Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia Pacific and Middle East) that AOUK&I is now considered equivalent to any other country chapter within AOTEu and has to submit a budget to the AOF for annual needs assessment that



will be assessed for cost effectiveness and against other funding requests for the other countries within Europe applying for funding to run courses. The education budget bid is now submitted separately to the AOF and any receipts from course fees are returned directly. The budget is decided by the AOUK&I Education Committee (EdComm) and submitted through the personnel paid by the United Kingdom (UK) subsidiary the current principle industrial partner, which is De Puy Synthes (DPS) a part of Johnson & Johnson Companies, now seconded to employment by the AOF in Davos who remain currently based in Welwyn Garden although certain members of the team are relocating to Leeds. The running, funding and governance of courses that either do not fill within newly imposed time constraints, which require a course subsidy or are loss making remains unclear. AOUK&I experience is that seemingly processes continue to evolve from what we were initially advised and remain in a state of flux as the AOF and DPS discover how precisely their complex agreement works. This co-operation agreement is currently beginning its third redrafting and the totality of it is withheld from AOUK&I the explanation being that it contains commercially sensitive information that renders it excluded from Freedom of Information act requests. AOUK&I is therefore currently held in a position of reaction to newly imposed regulation from the AOF rather than being able to pro-actively resolve anticipated challenges. JSMD said that it was important to remain “alive” to the risks of poor understanding of these new complexities and shifted responsibilities such that AOUL&I charitable reserves are not used as the easiest course of action to resolve underfunded activities and the AOF must remain accountable for all educational course expenditure and that whilst in support of difficulties imposed by change some one off payments had been made (for example provision of new lap tops for the Welwyn based education staff) this could continue as a long term strategy because going this change has greatly reduced the income generated by AOUK&I by way of currency exchange rates.

AOUK&I have submitted a budget to AOF for direct funding governance and community development money to enable AOUK&I to continue running as a national service to maintain the very high standards AOUK&I have achieved in all aspects of high quality in education with significant advances being made in terms of curriculum, course delivery and faculty expertise



as well as remaining compliant with UK legislation governing charitable status and regulation of its finances. AO UK&I currently remains a legally constituted body under UK law. Should it fail then all UK courses will need to be run directly from Switzerland via the Welwyn office as would the roles currently undertaken by AO UK&I that includes governance, faculty and education and development and research and as such AO UK&I would cease to exist. The loss of coherence resulting would most likely adjust delivery of education to that encountered in undeveloped AO member countries which is generally that of occasional courses run as single events or for a short duration by enthusiasts with industry support. JSMD will continue to represent the importance of AO UK&I to the AOF particularly regarding the preservation of reliable and reproducible delivery of high quality education to around 700 clinicians per year that has developed during the last 2 decades; including our flagship Principles and Advances courses. These generic courses that our experts have continued to develop and align with Royal College requirements for UK & Ireland trainees, although less likely to attract significant external support as a consequence, are still reliably filled every year as they meet the needs of trainees in the UK and are highly regarded throughout Europe.

The AOF requested budgets be reduced by 2.5%, which has been done. JSMD explained that AOF have committed to concentrating on development of other areas within the AO Global community and as Europe and North America were well developed they planned to use the saved funding from those regions to achieve this. However there is much demand from relatively undeveloped parts of Europe for funding and that there is concern therefore that AO UK&I and Germany are likely to be the most affected by this restructuring. JSMD stated that he will inform the faculty of further developments but stated that the continued support for research was vitally important for AO UK&I and that a bid for research funds has been included in the AO UK&I governance and community development budget bid.

The AOF have said they will not be able to respond to the budget requests until mid-December 2017 (*at the time of these minutes going to circulation – 8/1/18 - the response of the AOF is still awaited*).



JSMD stated that at present AOUK still pay for faculty memberships (other than Operating Room Personnel [ORP] whose are funded direct from AOT in Switzerland). Currently we pay the enhanced membership of 190 CHF. JSMD asked whether the faculty would accept us to fund the basic membership of 100 CHF. It was decided that when faculty memberships come up for renewal that Val Chipchase (VC) would ask the individual faculty if they would accept the lower membership package. If they did wish to continue with the full package (this included access to journals) that AOUK&I should continue to pay this for now as it would be too much to expect faculty to pay for AOT membership which is a pre-requisite for faculty to be entitled to teach on any AO course whilst they continue to work as volunteers without recompense even in the form of per diem honoraria.

JSMD updated the AGM regarding the continued payment for Continuing Professional Development points as educational specialist advice was this was now considered valueless for UK & Ireland participants. Lisa Hadfield-Law (LHL) will advise any individual on how they represent their learning to their regulatory bodies if they wish this as it was felt that currently only the overseas participants would require this. JSMD also informed the AGM the AOUK&I board of management (BoM) had decided to continue to pay for ORP accommodation but for UK & Ireland participants only.

JSMD stated that the recent letter to faculty from the EdComm chair regarding hospitality at courses had proved to be somewhat controversial as it explained after work refreshment will no longer be funded. JSMD stated that AOUK&I are extremely grateful to our faculty for the sacrifices that they make to teach on our courses and understood their frustration but that Ranae McCrae (RMcC) and her team are under extreme pressure from AOF to stick to a budget of no more than £70 per faculty attending dinner in the evening after their teaching role for the day is completed and their presence the following day is required if she goes over this, this would expose her to risk of sanction by her employer. This is very carefully scrutinized and has to be the budget for actual attendees. The funding forms part of the course fee charged



to participants. JSMD considers this unworkable and as several senior faculty have taken significant exception to this change in attitude will continue to investigate ways in which this matter might be moderated recognising the value of AOUK&I rests in the cohesion and support of its excellent volunteer faculty. The challenge appears to be different approaches to culture and interpretation and implementation of voluntary codes of conduct such as Med Tech rules and variability in approaches to this between the AOF, AOT and DPS both within Europe and other parts of the world and risk of either inappropriate behaviour that might damage the regard in which AO is held due to excess or result in a level of reward that might in the perception of some influence the decision made by faculty outside the AO environment.

JSMD explained that the AOUK VET section had expressed an interest to ask for payment of a per diem from AOVET. JSMD asked if any of the AOUK&I Trauma/CMF faculty wished for this to be considered by AO to make their wishes known to the AOUK&I board by contacting VC in the York office.

JSMD updated the AGM regarding the Wrightington Education Centre with access to cadaveric facilities. DPS said space for AOUK&I courses would be made available at this centre should we wish to use it. AOUK&I EdComm will assess the venues suitability and cost effectiveness for our specialist courses but it does not have the capacity to host our current format for Principles or Advanced Principles courses.

JSMD informed the AGM that the BoM considered some courses currently proposed by DPS were discussed at the board meeting as potentially being in conflict with the current co-operation agreement and AOUK&I have requested that our education committee meet with DPS to have a look at these in order to separate product based courses from AO principle based courses and whether or not co-operative ventures to enhance the value of both educational activities could be developed to prevent such matters arising in the future.



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JSMD reported that some of the specialty courses were not filling and that was a need to develop further marketing for these. This would require funding from AOF and the appropriate budget to apply to would need to be identified.

JSMD suggested that the format for future AGMs may have to change but a decision can't be made about these as yet until more is known regarding the level of governance and community development money that will be received from Switzerland.

Thanks were given to:

Yussef Michla who came along to speak to AOUK & Ireland faculty regarding Social Media and how this can enhance surgical training and to

Bob Handley (BH) and Sarah Tucker were the AGM guest speakers, speaking about 'Orthoplastics or Bust'. AOUK&I had funded part of BH's travel to Katmandu earlier this year.

JSMD thanked RMcC and her team in Welwyn and also VC and John Whitmore (JW) in York.

Date of next AGM - to be decided.