



MINUTES
MEDICAL TESTING ACCREDITATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
29th Meeting
17th July 2019, Commencing at 10:00am
Venue: NATA Melbourne

Chairman: Prof Teck Yee Khong

Secretary: Mr Andrew Griffin

Minutes: Umayal Sobee

1. Meeting introduction and associated administrative matters

1.1 Confirmation of attendance and apologies

Accreditation Advisory Committee

Prof Teck Yee Khong
Chair

Dr Raymond Chan
RCPA Liaison

Dr Juliet Burn
RCPA for Anatomical Pathology

Dr Desiree du Sart

Human Genetics Society of
Australasia (HGSA)

A/Prof David Roxby
Australian and New Zealand Society
of Blood Transfusion (ANZSBT)

Prof Geoff Coombs
Australian Society for Microbiology
(ASM)

Dr Helen Wordsworth
RCPA for
Haematology/Immunohaematology

A/Prof Professor William Sewell
RCPA for Immunopathology

Mr Neil Horton
Australian Institute of Medical
Scientists

Ms Samantha Simpson
Fertility Society of Australia (FSA)

Apologies

Mr Gus Koerbin
Australasian Association of Clinical
Biochemists (AACB)

Dr Daman Langguth
RCPA Deputy Liason

Ms Jenni Charleston
Commonwealth Department of
Human Services

NATA Staff

Mr Andrew Griffin (Secretary)
Sector Manager, Legal and Clinical
Services

Ms Gillian Treloar
Deputy Sector Manager, Legal and
Clinical Services

Mr John Styzinski
General Manager, Operations and
Technical

Ms Danielle Dicker
Technical Manager

Ms Susan Harry
Manager, Stakeholder Relations

Ms Thu-Anh Pham
Stakeholder and Technical Coordinator



Observers

A/Prof Peter Stewart

NSW Health Pathology

Ms Suzanne Petrie (NPAAC)

Commonwealth Department of Health

Dr Tony Badrick

NPAAC DRL Chair

Ms Sharon Thomas

International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ)

Ms Lisa Chan

International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ)

1.2 Chair’s opening remarks

Welcome from the Chair and round table introductions.

Chair welcomed the two new committee members Mr Neil Horton and Ms Samantha Simpson.

1.3 Reminder regarding conflict of interest and confidentiality

Committee members are reminded of their need to declare conflict of interest. None were declared.

1.4 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting held 31st July 2018.

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

1.5 Review of action items arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

Agenda Item No.	Action Summary	By Whom	Due Date	Completed
9/15	A. Griffin to consider including Pathology Australia in contact plan as part of NATA’s stakeholder engagement process.	AG		<p>10/05/2016 - Ongoing</p> <p>No updates this meeting 13/9/17 – Nothing to report but AG questions if we should still engage? Lawrie B noted that it would be a good idea as the issues are in the public and private sector.</p> <p>GT to progress a contact plan with PA</p> <p><i>Post meeting note: John S and Andrew G attended and presented to PA on 15 November 2019. An annual invitation has been offered to NATA.</i></p> <p>Close</p>
4/16	<p>Ongoing communication with Labs</p> <p>AG to produce a summary of assessment findings each year with possible drill down commentary of the top 3 findings.</p>	AG		<p>13/9/17 – AG discussed summary assessment findings. See AG report NATA is still deciding whether this information should be made public.</p>

				ONGOING
1/18	Andy G to action new AAC membership	AG		CLOSED
2/18	R Chan will write to college whether it is possible to define the scope of practice for immunopathology on an MBS item by item basis.	RC		Ray wrote to RCPA Closed
3/18	AAC to provide Andy with comments/feedbacks on the FAD. Michelle will provide feedback as well.	AG		CLOSED

1.6 Other business

No issues raised.

2. Committee membership

2.1 Review of current membership and composition of the Committee

For member's information, a detailed description of the role of the AAC, chair and members was included in the agenda papers.

The following member's term expire:

- A/Prof Teck Yee Khong Mar 2020
Yee will be retiring in March 2020. A/Prof Peter Stewart has been nominated by RCPA as the new Chair.
- Dr Desiree du Sart Sep 2019
Desiree will be retiring September this year. Andy will action a new HGSA nominee.

Action item 1/19 - Andy G to action AAC membership.
Post meeting note: Dr Andrew Dubowsky has been appointed as the Molecular Genetics expert.

3. Reports from committee members

Dr Raymond Chan

Report taken as read.

Discussion regarding credentialing of pathologists was held and how NATA can determine appropriate credentialing during the accreditation process.

Action item 2/19 - Ray will write to College as to how NATA will be notified of credentialing decisions.

Prof Geoff Coombs

Report taken as read.

Ms Samantha Simpson

Report taken as read.

Prof William Sewell

Report taken as read.

Assoc/Prof David Roxby

Report taken as read.

David raised concern regarding supervision for ARCBS. There is no Fellowship to allow Scientists the ability to become Clinical Scientists in Immunotransplantation which will mean they cannot remain Category S labs. They also do not have FT On-site Pathologists at each site and therefore cannot become Cat GX.

Dr Helen Wordsworth

Report taken as read.

Dr Juliet Burn

Report taken as read.

Mr Neil Horton

Report taken as read.

Dr Desiree du Sart

Report taken as read.

Andy discussed about scopes and the possibility of needs to look out another way to describe scopes in molecular testing.

Ms Sharon Thomas

Report taken as read.

Dr Tony Badrick

Report taken as read.

4. General Manager update

4.1 The General Manager Operations and Technical, Mr John Styzinski will provide an update to AAC members on major NATA initiatives and other matters as relevant.

John Styzinski provided an update to AAC members on major NATA initiatives occurring since the previous meeting.

Key topics presented to the committee included:

✓ Impartiality:

ISO 17011 now places more onus on Accreditation Bodies to ensure they are as free as possible from undue influence and that they act impartially.

NATA has documented a risk register which identifies areas which have been identified as risks to NATA's impartiality and the mitigation employed to minimise this risk. The AAC were asked to review the register and provide feedback. The AAC identified NATA's close relationship with NPAAC as a potential risk (i.e. the information NPAAC may request of NATA and the safeguard of confidentiality of such). The AAC suggested NPAAC be included on the risk register.

Action item 3/19 - Risk register to be updated to include NPAAC.

- ✓ AAC recommendation decision reviews - Committee members are requested to attend to Accreditation Recommendations in a timely manner to allow NATA's Charter of Service timeframes to be satisfied. Where members are not able to attend to such in a timely manner they are requested to advised NATA.
- ✓ Committee advised that ISO/IEC 15189 is now under review.
- ✓ Summary of NATA's APAC evaluation in Feb 2019 was presented..
- ✓ Accreditation of bio-banking. *ISO 20387:2018 Biotechnology - Biobanking - General requirements for biobanking*. NATA is developing a new program for the accreditation of biobanks.

4.2 Report from Gillian Treloar - Report as read.

5. Stakeholder engagement

Nothing to report.

6. Review of accreditation criteria and processes

No new criteria were identified.

Specific Accreditation Criteria - Medical Testing Field Application Document (FAD) was republished in May 2019 and came into effect in July 2019.

7. Technical matters

No technical matters were raised for discussion.

8. Assessors

8.1 Summary of new appointments and retired assessors since the previous meeting

Summary was provided.

8.2 Specific technical assessor training needs

None identified.

8.3 Identification of areas/disciplines where technical assessors need to be recruited

New TAs needed for Genetic testing.

9. Other business

Numerous questions regarding the new supervision arrangements were raised by the Chair.

The NPAAC representatives asked that all questions to be forwarded in writing for a response.

10. Next meeting & close

Andy G thanked all the members for their time and input.

Thanked Prof Yee Khong and Dr Desiree DuSart for their contribution to the AAC and NATA more generally.

Next Meeting: TBA 2020.

Meeting Closed at 2:45pm.