



**RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**
CONNECTING RECs IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING

RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (REASA)

THURSDAY, 11 MAY 2017, 15:00

THE VINEYARD, NEWLANDS

CAPE TOWN

1. Opening and Welcome

Dr Retha Visagie, the Chairperson, welcomed all the members to the first biennial general meeting of REASA

2. Confirmation of the Agenda

Two items were added to the Agenda:

- 2.1 Approval of Constitution
- 2.2 Request of an advisory service for REASA members

3. Founder Steering Committee Report 2015 – 2017

Dr Visagie presented a short overview on the progress made with REASA from the founders meeting in 2015. The report will be made available to all members.

4. Financial Report

Dr Nanette Briers, the Treasurer, presented statistics on the 48 members who have joined since the founding of REASA, and gave a short overview on the way forward. The financial report will form part of the founders' report that will be made available to all members.

5. Announcing the Executive Committee for the term 2017 – 2019

Dr Visagie introduced the newly elected Executive Committee for the next term:

Dr Retha Visagie (Manager: Research Integrity) UNISA - CHAIRPERSON



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Prof Brenda Morrow (Department of Paediatrics) UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN - DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Dr Nanette Briers (School of Anatomical Sciences) UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND - TREASURER

Prof Wayne Towers (Faculty of Health Sciences Ethics Office) UNIVERSITY OF NORTH WEST - MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION

Melany Leonie Hendricks (Department of Psychiatry) UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH - EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Dr Annie Mmasethunya Temane (Department of Nursing) UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG - EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Dr Bert Mohr (Department of Veterinary Scientific Services) UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN - ANIMAL ETHICS

Tanya Coetzee (Faculty Research Ethics Committee) TUT - SECRETARY

Prof Lizeth Roets (Department of Health Sciences) UNISA

Dr Dudu Jankie (Department of Languages and Social Education) UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA

Dr Matsheliso Molapo (Institutional Research) UNISA

6. New Matters

6.1 Approval of Constitution:

- The members were granted ten minutes to read the Constitution to allow adequate engagement with the document prior to approval. The constitution was also disseminated to the members prior to the BGM. The chairperson raised the matter of the presiding officer's title related to dissent about the use of 'President' by a member. Dr Bert Mohr facilitated the discussion because the chairperson declared her conflict of interest in the matter. It was acknowledged that President and Vice President are being used by peer associations in South Africa to distinguish the role of the President from chairpersons that are responsible for specific strategic objectives that form part of an association's strategic deliverables. Voting on this matter was suggested, but Dr Mohr indicated that voting may create a divide between members.



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The following changes were recommended after a short discussion:

- It was proposed that the title of the office bearers remain Chairperson/President and Deputy Chairperson/Vice-President in the constitution. This decision can be altered in the future based on consultation with the members. It was agreed that the term “Associate membership” be removed from 4.1.4. Membership is open to anyone who has a vested interest in research ethics.

6.2 Request of an Advisory Service for REASA Members

The need for REC members to have access to an advisory service was recognised and this will be addressed in the interactive forum that is planned for REASA members as part of the website.

7. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 16:25