



32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
The Guildhall, Salisbury

## MINUTES

### Attendance:

#### Trustees/Patrons/Scientists (NSC)

David McCreath	Chairman, Board of Trustees
The Lady Amherst	Patron
Mrs Sue Borrett	Trustee & Financial Advisor
Mrs Sarah Cann	Trustee
Professor Emeritus Mike Craggs	NSC
Professor Emeritus Peter Ellaway	Trustee
John Glen MP	Patron
Mrs Mary Mullin	Trustee
Mrs Vanessa Owen	Patron
Dr Jonathan Rudge	Trustee
Professor Ian Swain	Life Patron
Lyn Thomas	Trustee
Matthew Pearce	Research Consultant
Rory Steevenson	Director (Sec)

**Members** including: The Master of Northesk & the Hon Mrs Colin Carnegie, Mrs Heather Swain, Mr Anton Prantl, Mrs Sonya Jacobs, Major Robert Morgan

#### Apologies:

Mrs Genevieve Holmes MVO	Patron
Anne Luttmann-Johnson	Patron
Baroness Masham of Ilton DL	Patron
Mrs Gillian Matthews MBE	Patron
Sir Paul & Lady Newton	Patrons
Mrs Vanessa Owen	Patron (attended the autumn supper)
Mrs Barbara Ryan	Patron
Dr Richard Smith	Trustee
Dr Paul Taylor	NSC
Mr Freddy Tylicki	Patron

## ITEM 1: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting shortly at 18:30 and thanked all those in attendance. He extended a warm welcome to:

- **Patron The Lady Amherst**, a stalwart supporter of INSPIRE now planning the Cheriton Cottage Garden Concert next summer
- **Patron Nessie Owen** (in absentia) who had produced the wonderful (Cook to INSPIRE Again) which would be launched tonight
- **Trustee Mr David Temple**, the lay member of the National Scientific Committee (NSC) who last month attended his first Board of Trustees meeting.
- **Trustee Mrs Mary Mullin**, just back from a business trip in Ireland and attending her first AGM.

1.2 Chairman congratulated **Trustee Dr Jonathan Rudge** who had recently received his PhD from the University of Reading and **Professor Ian Swain** awarded the hitherto unique title **INSPIRE Life Patron** by the Board of Trustees at their autumn meeting. He acknowledged INSPIRE's research programme, with eight projects costing £1.4 million and applauded those who had helped make it so, particularly our scientists including Past Chairman of the NSC and now **Trustee, Professor Emeritus Peter Ellaway** and senior member of the NSC, **Professor Emeritus Mike Craggs**

1.3 Later the Chairman recognised the Director's unswerving commitment both to finding projects and to fundraising with over £500,000 (audited figure £487,711) raised in the last financial year, and £205,000 raised to date since 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019. He wished everybody an enjoyable evening and asked them to dig deep at the raffle. He then handed over the running of the AGM to the Director.

## ITEM 2: MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

2.1 **Prelims.** Sec quickly ran through Apologies making special mention of Baroness Masham who sent her best wishes, Mrs Sue Clayton who had hoped to attend and Mrs Carole Ann Michels one of our most committed volunteers, represented by her daughter, Patron Nicola, The Lady Amherst.

2.2 **Minutes.** AGM 2018 minutes, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018, were circulated on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Sec confirmed:

- That after a 3 year bureaucratic mêlée, INSPIRE had been elected to the Office of Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR) on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 2018.
- INPrUS took place at the Royal College of Anaesthetists on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2019 although this had not yet led to an INSPIRE funded PrU project. This was all the more disappointing as 'restricted' funding had been offered by an anonymous donor.
- The forecast of events as described, went ahead with the Channel Islands Reception on 2<sup>nd</sup> May in Jersey, well supported by some of those present tonight, the polo on 13<sup>th</sup> July and 2 meetings of the National Scientific Committee in their new London 'home' at the Royal Society of Medicine (RSM).

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- No further matters were arising and the Minutes were put to the floor:

Proposed: **Robert Morgan**  
Seconded: **Trustee Sarah Cann**  
Vote: Unanimous

### ITEM 3: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3.1 **Overview.** Sec opted to test a streamlined report format incorporating sections by the (previous) Technical Director and Financial Advisor. **Trustee Prof Emeritus Peter Ellaway** and **Trustee & Financial Advisor Mrs Susan Borrett** were on hand to contribute as necessary. Sec used his default format covering the 4 'P's.

**P**rojects  
**P**eople  
**P**urse  
**P**rofile

3.2 Three documents were made available and are appended hereto:

- Current Research Programme dated 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. 2019
- The Income & Expenditure summary produced by INSPIRE's auditors Fletcher & Partners
- Director's Briefing Note dated 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. 2019

### PROJECTS

3.3 In lay terms, Sec outlined the Current Research Programme. He reminded the meeting that with running costs apportioned to each of 8 current projects, the total commitment was **£1.41 million** over the life of the programme (2017-2022). The programme was vibrant and evolving with two further projects (iCYCLE II and TRUNK FUNTION) being offered 50%, funding, conditional on the remaining 50% shortfall being secured from other sources. Subject to these conditions being met, the programme would then consist of 10 projects at a total cost of **£1.59 million.**

3.4 Sec said the unequivocal success of INSPIRE's ability to raise funds was due to the quality of research projects and saluted the continued resolve of the NSC.

3.5 Sec invited comments from the floor and Professor Ellaway addressed the issue of half funding two projects which he thought was ill advised. It placed unreasonable demands on inexperienced scientists who needed all the support the charity could offer in addressing research rather than funding. He believed it was appropriate for INSPIRE to match funding already secured from other sources, but not the other way round. He regretted he had been unable to attend the Board of Trustees meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October

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2019 and would have voted against this decision. Sec (also Sec to the Board of Trustees) took on board these points but offered some hope as the Injured Players Foundation at the RFU Twickenham had expressed an interest in matching funding for both projects. Sec would keep all interested parties informed. **Action: Sec**

### PEOPLE

3.6 **Patrons:** For the AGM's information, **Lady Vincent** widow of the late **FM Lord Vincent** died in October. On behalf of INSPIRE, Sec had written to their son, Colonel the Hon Mark Vincent MBE.

### 3.7 Trustees

- **Mr David Temple**, the lay member of the NSC was elected to the Board of Trustees effective Oct. 2019 and this evening was attending his first AGM. David suffered a SCI in 1985 while serving in the RAF in Hong Kong and had much to offer INSPIRE's programme.
- **Dr Stephen Duckworth OBE**, having served on the Board for 3 years, Stephen opted to stand down as a Trustee effective Nov. 2019

3.8 **Scientists.** Sec reminded the AGM that the rotation of members was the preferred model advised by the AMRC (Association of Medical Research Charities), INSPIRE's de facto licensing authority.

3.8.1 The following, replacing Prof Ian Swain and Prof Nick Donaldson have joined the NSC and attended their first meeting in Sept. 2019. Their abbreviated biographies are at [www.inspire-foundation.org.uk](http://www.inspire-foundation.org.uk):

- **Dr Anne Van Hoestenbergh**e University College London
- **Dr Edward Chadwick** University of Aberdeen

3.9 **INSPIRE Foundation PhD Scholarship.** Having submitted his thesis on neuromodulation, **Dr Sean Doherty** (aged 27) successfully completed his PhD in Aug. 2019. INSPIRE will recognise this achievement at the London Reception in May 2020.

### PURSE

3.10 **Audit.** Sec and **Trustee Mrs Susan Borrett** had been involved in a protracted dialogue with Fletcher & Partners making the accounts more transparent both within the charity and importantly for the Charity Commission and our supportive grant making trusts. They believed the signed accounts were now fit for purpose and the Income & Expenditure (I & E) summary was a particularly useful addition to the account, albeit not part of the audited account per se.

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3.11 **Income.** Referring to the I & E sheet for Financial Year (FY) ended 30 April 2019, Sec highlighted the heading issues:

FY 2018/19, **£487,711** compared to **£240,636**, FY 2017/18

3.12 **INSPIRE Research Grants:**

FY 2018/19, **£162,190** compared to **£102,947**, FY 2017/18

3.13 **Current unaudited assets to date: £650,000.** This unaudited figure gives an approximate total of our assets.

3.14 **Affordability:** The Board of Trustees had committed the charity to a considerable research programme. Trustees were comfortable that our predicted future income, based on average audited income over the last 3 years **£324,288** (Briefing Note page 2, paragraph 2) combined with the assets held on account, **£650,000** satisfied this commitment.

3.15 **Floor.** There were no comments from the floor.

## PROFILE

3.16 **Footprint.** The main development since the last AGM is INSPIRE's evolving relations with the **Royal Society of Medicine (RSM)**. This has now been the venue for two biannual meetings of the NSC. Of note, this has proven both cheaper and more convenient than running meetings in Salisbury, especially for 'up country' scientists. Following a useful introduction by **Prof Mike Craggs**, the Director had a meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019 with the RSM's President, **Prof Roger Kirby** and Executive Director **Ms Michele Acton**. RSM is keen to develop its dealings with medical charities like INSPIRE and our reception on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 could not be more opportune.

3.17 **Scientific Horizons.** We are confident new horizons will develop with our latest NSC member **Dr Edward Chadwick** based at the University of Aberdeen. In addition Project PAIN PREDICT has already secured part funding from BRAINWAVEBANK a commercial research firm in Dublin; with **Trustee Mary Mullin's** wide network of contacts, we hope to open up further research and fundraising opportunities within Ireland. Mrs Mullin added that BRAINWAVEBANK also has an office in Belfast where there is also a NHS spinal unit.

## ITEM 4: ELECTION OF AUDITORS

4.1 Sec re-emphasised that he and **Trustee Sue Borrett** recognised the service and guidance throughout the year by Fletcher & Partners and had complete confidence in their integrity as INSPIRE's auditors, one of the only firms in the Salisbury area prepared to undertake charity audits. Their re-election was put to the vote:

Proposed: **Dr Jonathan Rudge**

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Seconded: **Matthew Pearce**  
Vote: Unanimous

**ITEM 5: AOB**

5.1 Sec encouraged support to key events in Forecast of Events 2020

Thursday 12 <sup>nd</sup> May	London Reception, RSM
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Cheriton Cottage Garden Concert, generously hosted by <b>Patron, The Lady Amherst</b>
Saturday 11th July	Charity Polo

5.2 Before closing, Sec introduced **Matthew Pearce**, INSPIRE's Research Consultant, charged with identifying new sources of funding. Through his endeavours, the charity was enjoying new money which hitherto has been untapped.

**ITEM 6: AGM 2020**

6. Wednesday 11th November 2020. Location and venue will be dictated by feedback from those attending AGM 2019.

**ITEM 7: CLOSURE**

7. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19:08



Rory Steevenson  
Director

15<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**TO BE SIGNED**

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David McCreath  
Chairman

Dated: 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020