



World Glaucoma Association

The Global Glaucoma Network

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President
K. Martin (UK)
Immediate Past President
T. Aung (SG)
Past Past President
N. Gupta (CA)
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Irene Koomans
Marije de Graaf

Meeting : Associate Advisory Board (AAB)
Date : Saturday, July 10, 2021
Time : 3:00-4:00 PM CEST
Location : Online via Zoom
Present : Poemen Chan, Alberto Diniz-Filho, Farouk Garba, Alex Huang (co-chair), Parul Ichhpujani, Ziad Khoueir, Miriam Kolko, George Kong, Monisha Nongpiur, Zeynep Ozturker, Verena Prokosch, Simon Skalicky, Chelvin Sng, Nkechinyere Judith Uche, Jayme Vianna, Benjamin Xu
Executive Office: Kaweh Mansouri, Irene Koomans (minute taker and vote counter)

Minutes

1. Welcome by the WGA Executive Office
Kaweh Mansouri welcomes all to this AAB meeting and reflects on the successful virtual World Glaucoma Congress that just finished and had over 2,800 participants. Many of the AAB members have actively contributed to this first ever online WGC, thank you!
2. Welcome new members
Alex Huang highlights and welcomes the eight new members that have joined the WGA, from all corners of the world. This is their first AAB meeting:

Benjamin Xu	USA
Chelvin Sng	Singapore
Miriam Kolko	Denmark
Nkechinyere Judith Uche	Nigeria
Poemen Pui-man Chan	Hong Kong
Alberto Diniz-Filho	Brazil
George Kong	Australia
Zeynep K. Ozturker	Turkey
3. History of the AAB
Alex gives some insights into the history of the AAB. For several years, the AAB was lacking an identity. There was no clear goal for the AAB, other than populating the WGA committees and providing input for the Executive Committee and Board of Governors when requested. Under the leadership of Subho (Chakrabarti), Tanuj (Dada) and Gus (de Moraes) this has changed significantly. The AAB now has its own projects, such as the Paper of the Month video from the Journal of Glaucoma. It is good to see this change, with more activities underway.
4. AAB co-chair
Alex reminds all to submit their nomination for a new AAB co-chair, as has been emailed. Everyone at least 1 year on the AAB is eligible to either nominate another member or yourself. Please email info@worldglaucoma.org your nomination, by Monday July 19 the latest.



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Each nomination has to be accompanied with a 100-word statement on the professional profile, leadership credentials and the vision of the nominee on being elected as the AAB co-chair.

5. JOG impact factor

As emailed, the Journal of Glaucoma factor increased significantly. The Paper of the Month, as well as the short reviews, have helped in the visibility of the Journal.

6. Active projects: AAB review

Alex reminds all that if you have an interesting review you would like to submit for the Journal of Glaucoma, please contact him or Gus. Neeru Gupta is the new Editor in Chief, taking over from Jeff Liebmann. Alex and Gus will reach out to Neeru to continue the collaboration the AAB had for the short reviews with Jeff.

7. Active projects: Paper of the Month

Ziad Khoueir provides an update on the Paper of the Month videos for the Journal of Glaucoma, which has been running since October 2019. Recently we even had the luxury problem of a selected paper where the author already recorded a video. It is a great AAB project, which we aim to continue for the foreseeable future. To watch all the episodes, please go to <https://wga.one/wga/journal-of-glaucoma/#paper>.

8. Active projects: Mentorship program

Alex introduces the AAB Mentorship Program. The outline he and Gus created has been circulated to all AAB members, and this is the moment to give feedback. In short, the aim is to create a Young Glaucoma Researcher Initiative in which AAB members become mentors of young glaucoma specialists who lack scientific advisory.

Comments/observations from the members:

- Can we start in other months than January?
- Are only AAB members a mentor? Or can we reach out to old AAB members?
- Perhaps best to have a co-mentor.
- Best to mix the areas for mentor and mentee, for instance mentor from US and mentee from Russia.
- We need to make short mentor profiles, so that candidates can indicate if they have a preferred mentor based on their needs.
- A standardized process needs to be developed for the application and selection. Perhaps with a subcommittee to review the applications, with a scoring system.
- Part of the application process should be for candidates to define their goals, and add their expectations.
- Additionally, some kind of department/supervisor support letter should be included with the application.



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- An evaluation of the 1st year is preferred.
- Meeting your mentor personally is also preferred, at for instance WGC.
- The AAB can submit a budget request for a WGC travel grant and free registration.
- As the WGC is every 2 years, perhaps the program duration should be 2 years. With the possibility for the mentee to present at the WGC.
- Most members prefer 2 years, the WGC can also be the starting point.
- When opting for 2 years, co-mentors are also preferred.
- Consensus: keep duration flexible to 1 or 2 years, based on the project/tasks.
- Each mentee will receive a certificate of completion or something similar, as it is challenging to give an award for the best project.
- The 'terms & conditions' of the relationship should also be clearly defined.
- At the start, the timeline with various milestones should be established, with interim evaluations. To keep track of the progress.
- To promote the program, we need to involve the WGA members societies. Additionally, the WGA database has almost 17,000 contacts. We can also utilize the WGA social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn) if there are not sufficient applications.

Next steps:

- 1) Update outline program based on minutes by Alex.
- 2) Call for mentors for 1st cycle.
- 3) Budget request to Board of Governors, deadline early November 2021.
- 4) Call for applications in 2-3 months.

9. Closure