

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Members

Friday, September 27, 2024

10:00 am ET

ZOOM Web Conference

Voting Members in Attendance (35 total):	Paul Braconnier	JoAnne Arcand	Remi Goupil
	Ross Tsuyuki	John Floras	Sarah Melville
	Dorothy Morris	Julie Lavoie	Sheldon Tobe
	Dylan Burger	Kerri Eady	Tara Cessford
	Pacifique Nduwayezu	Laurie Taylor	Jesse Bittman
	Shelita Dattani	Lindsay Van Dyk	Zaina Albalawi
	Ashley Fournel	Lisa Dubrofsky	Greg Hundemer
	David Henley	Maxime Lamarre-Cliche	Balsam Alabdali
	Ernesto Schiffrin	Mohsen Agharazii	Rhian Touyz
	Januvi Jegatheswaran	Norm Campbell	Alain Milot
	Jeffrey Wheeler	Pierre Paradis	Andrew Lee
	Jill Bruneau	Reid McDonald	

Staff: Asif Ahmed (Executive Director), Anna Stoutenburg (Senior Operations Specialist), Kevin Lee (Client Services Coordinator)

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

	Motion	Moved	Second	Carried
1.	To approve the minutes of the September 21, 2023, Annual General Meeting.	P. Braconnier	L. Taylor	Y
2.	To approve the Financial Statements for the year ended April 30, 2024, as audited by the firm of Grant Thornton LLP.	P. Braconnier	E. Schiffrin	Y
3.	That Grant Thornton LLP be appointed public accountant of Hypertension Canada to hold office until the next annual meeting or until their successors are duly appointed, and that the Board be authorized to fix the public accountants' remuneration.	P. Braconnier	J. Floras	Y
4.	To approve the Slate of Directors as presented.	R. Tsuyuki	P. Paradis	Y
5.	To adjourn the Annual General Meeting.	P. Braconnier	P. Paradis	Y

MINUTES OF MEETING

Welcome and Call to Order

- Dr. Ross Tsuyuki welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 am and went over the housekeeping items.

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- The Chair appointed Asif Ahmed the Secretary and Anna Stoutenburg as the Scrutineer for the meeting.

Quorum

- At the time of recording, there were 15 voting members at the AGM, passing quorum.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM

Motion: To approve the minutes of the September 21, 2023, Annual General Meeting.

Moved: P. Braconnier

Second: L. Taylor

Carried

President's Report

- HC has successfully redesigned its website to make it easier to navigate for the public and healthcare professionals.
- HC has also had partnership meetings with Diabetes Canada, Obesity Canada, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Canadian Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism, the Canadian Council of Cardiovascular Nurses, and the Canadian Association of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation. As part of the strategic plan, the purpose of these meetings was to evaluate future partnership opportunities and also to offer the organizations hypertension content for their website in return for attribution.
- HC selected new Co-Chairs for the 2025 guidelines, Drs. Gregory Hundemer and Remi Goupil, and the Co-Chairs have designed a new process for the development of the guidelines. First, a set of primary care guidelines (led by Dr. Kristen Terenzi) will be developed, followed by a comprehensive guideline. HC is also exploring a partnership with Hypertension Australia for the comprehensive guideline in order to share the cost of the evidence synthesis work.
- HC had two Congresses in the past year: the October 2023 Congress in Montreal and the April 2024 Congress, which was a partnered event with Obesity Canada. HC is planning to host a virtual Congress around May in 2025 and an in-person event in 2026.
- HC has also renewed its advocacy efforts with the Canadian Hypertension Coalition. Ross thanked interim Chair Dr. Norm Campbell and new Chair Dr. Kara Nerenberg for their work in this area.
- Dr. Alexander Leung recently published new data on the Canadian Health Measures survey, but since the survey did not operate during the pandemic, HC does not yet have information on the pandemic's impact on blood pressure control rates.
- HC has partnered with the May Measurement Month organization to conduct blood pressure screenings in pharmacies across Canada. Ross and Dr. Stephanie Gysel are working on this and are seeking funding to conduct the screenings year-round. The results for the 2023 pharmacy-based screenings for May Measurement Month were presented at the 2023 Hypertension Canada

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Congress and the 2024 European Society of Hypertension conference. The paper is currently under review.

- Similarly, Dr. Tiffany Lee published the results of the blood pressure screenings on World Hypertension Day in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- The Hypertension Canada Professional Certification Program (HC-PCP) continues to grow, with increased revenues and enrollments:
 - 218 registrations for the full program with 83 for Level 1 only and 7 for Level 2 only
 - There were 40 graduates from the full version of the course and 59 graduates from the RxPATH study group.
 - There was a total income of \$286,040 in revenue to date, and \$34,625 in the past year.
 - The RxPATH trial (randomized trial of the HC-PCP in Alberta) was published earlier in the year and demonstrated a 5mmHg greater lowering of systolic blood pressure in the patients of pharmacists who took the HC-PCP, compared to those who did not. This will help HC market the program.
 - A new marketing plan has been developed and is being implemented.
- The Device Recommendation Program has earned a revenue of \$310,400 in the past year.
 - 27 devices were reviewed by the Committee in the past year.
 - A paper by Dr. Jonathan Chan was published, showing that while 9 out of 10 home blood pressure devices sold in pharmacies were validated, only 45% of those online were validated. HC will use this to target consumers, manufacturers, and retailers with information on the device recommendation program.
 - A plan to promote the program is being developed.
- The randomized trial of the use of a home blood pressure monitor vs. usual care in women with uncontrolled blood pressure is underway. This study is being conducted in 40 community pharmacies in Ontario and is funded by Bios/Thermor. The study began in January 9, 2024, and is led by postdoctoral fellow Dr. Daniel Burton (supervised by Drs. Paula Harvey, Lisa Dubrofsky, and Ross Tsuyuki). The study has recruited approximately one third of its target of 368 patients.
- The implementation study on hypertension in women (led by Dr. Kaitlyn Watson) is finishing up its analysis and a paper on the study will be submitted shortly. This work will provide the basis for implementation strategies for the Hypertension Canada guidelines in women.
- Ross noted that this is his last report as President, and he thanked everyone for their help and support in rebuilding Hypertension Canada and improving its financial situation.
- The call for volunteers was given.

Executive Director's Report

- HC had its 2023 Congress in October at the hotel Omni Mont-Royal in Montréal. The event had a 2-day scientific program that included content for trainees and sessions in three different tracks (primary care, basic science, and clinical/population science).
- Last April, HC hosted its 2024 conference in Banff in partnership with Obesity Canada. The event had a 4-day scientific program with 217 speakers that engaged trainees, researchers, and healthcare

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professionals. HC covered registration and travel expenses for 22 trainees from across Canada and organized poster and presentation awards for 8 additional trainees at the event.

- In May and June, the office attended both the PharmaChoice conference and the Pharmacy Expo in Halifax to promote the Professional Certification Program amongst pharmacists. At the Pharmacy Expo, the office connected with representatives from larger pharmacy chains and organized follow-up meetings afterwards.
- HC has started work on the 2025 guidelines with new Co-Chairs, Drs. Remi Goupil and Greg Hundemer.
- HC's advocacy efforts continue with the Canadian Hypertension Coalition and Dr. Kara Nerenberg was welcomed as the new Chair. The office thanked Dr. Norm Campell for his leadership as the interim Chair. The office also recognized Dr. Sachin Pasricha's recent achievement in recruiting both the Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students & Interns (CAPSI) and the Canadian Nursing Students Association (CNSA) to the Coalition.
- Medtronic has agreed to be HC's corporate partner for the year.
- The office welcomed Dr. Laurie Taylor as the new President and thanked Dr. Ross Tsuyuki for his many years of leadership.

Strategic Plan Update

- Work on both strategic objectives were either well underway or completed.
- Ross noted that the strategic plan has been revised so that it's tied to current programs and projects (including the guidelines, the device recommendation program, PCP, etc.).

Presentation of Audited Financial Statements and Appointment of Auditor

- Doane Grant Thornton audited the Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2024 and found them to be satisfactory.
- The audited statements showed a small net loss of about \$25,000, and an operational loss of about \$193,000, which was a result of both decreased revenue and increased expenses.
- The decreased revenue resulted from the loss of income from the BIOS study this year and the lack of bulk purchases for the PCP program and corporate sponsorships. The increased expenses were solely for the two conferences.
- The revenue for the year was \$494,617, and expenses were \$687,503.
- The balance sheet also remained strong, with assets of \$3,190,233.
- Overall, Paul noted that HC's financial position was stable and that the organization was pleased that it was able to host two conferences in a small period of time, bringing HC's members together, while also remaining financially stable.

Motion: To approve the Financial Statements for the year ended April 30, 2024, as audited by the firm of Grant Thornton LLP.

Moved: P. Braconnier

Second: E. Schiffrin

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Carried

Motion: That Grant Thornton LLP be appointed public accountant of Hypertension Canada to hold office until the next annual meeting or until their successors are duly appointed, and that the Board be authorized to fix the public accountants' remuneration.

Moved: P. Braconnier

Second: J. Floras

Carried

Election of Directors

- Slate of Directors for election:
 - 1. Dr. Laurel Taylor — (Returning – Third Term – Requires Election)
 - 2. David Henley — (Returning – Third Term – Requires Election)
 - 3. Kerri Eady — (Returning – Second Term – Requires Election)
 - 4. Dr. Jill Bruneau — (Returning – Second Term – Requires Election)
 - 5. Paul Braconnier — (Returning – Second Term – Requires Election)

Motion: To approve the Slate of Directors as presented.

Moved: R. Tsuyuki

Second: P. Paradis

Carried

Ross thanked the membership for their votes and announced that those elected will form the 2024-2025 Board of Directors. He then asked Laurie to say a few words as the new President.

Welcoming Dr. Laurie Taylor as Hypertension Canada's New President

- Laurie expressed that she was excited to take on the new role and work with the Hypertension Canada team to fulfill the organization's strategic objectives. She noted that HC has an excellent Board of Directors that have a variety of skills who are well-positioned to lead the organization forward. Laurie also acknowledged the many volunteers who support Hypertension Canada's Committees and projects. Finally, Laurie thanked Ross for his leadership of Hypertension Canada.

Committee Reports

- Awards Committee
 - Dr. Remi Goupil reported that HC had received nominations for almost all of the awards categories in the past year (1 for the Senior Investigator Award, 2 for the New Investigator Award, 2 for the Certificate of Excellence, 1 for the Hypertension Innovations Award, and 1 for the Distinguished Service Award).
 - The Awards Committee met and selected Dorothy Morris for the Distinguished Service Award, Dr. Anne-Monique Nuyt for the Senior Investigator Award, and Dr. Karen Tran for the New Investigator Award.

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- The 2025 awards cycle will open later in the fall.
- Canadian Hypertension Coalition
 - Norm reported that the Coalition had been successfully reconstituted and had been active in several different areas.
 - The Coalition worked with Dr. Sachin Pasricha on a proposal to the CRA to include validated blood pressure devices as tax-deductible expense.
 - The Coalition submitted a letter to the provincial and federal governments, calling for a surveillance method for cardiovascular risk factors.
 - The Coalition also submitted a letter to the provincial and federal governments which encouraged the restriction of marketing unhealthy foods and beverages to children.
 - Norm thanked Dr. Pasricha for his efforts in engaging medical students in the Coalition.
 - Norm noted that the Coalition was still trying to get primary care organizations involved in the Coalition.
 - Norm also was pleased that Dr. Kara Nerenberg had agreed to take on the Chair position and looked forward to working with her.
- Canadian Hypertension Congress Committee
 - Dr. Dylan Burger reported that two Congresses have been held in the past year: the October 2023 event in Montreal and the April 2024 event in Banff.
 - The tentative plans for the next two events include a virtual meeting in the spring of 2025 and an in-person meeting in 2026.
 - The Co-Chairs also plan to renew and expand the Committee's membership.
- Device Recommendation Program Committee
 - The Committee reviewed 27 devices in the past year, most of which were upgrades from the previous "silver" category.
 - A new universal validation logo was developed and sent out to device manufacturers.
 - The Committee held a debate on home vs. ambulatory blood pressure monitoring at the 2024 Congress.
 - The list of recommended devices has been updated to include filters (that sort devices based on things like different cuff sizes, bluetooth capabilities, etc.).
- Education and Implementation Committee
 - Dr. Kaitlyn Watson is finishing up the Implementation Science Project.
 - A CIHR planning grant was received for the May Measurement Month initiative and HC is still looking at how it can be expanded to a national scale. Drs. Tiffany Lee and Stephanie Gysel are working on this project.
- Governance Committee
 - The following policies were reviewed and updated as appropriate:
 - Privacy Policy
 - Conflict of Interest Policy
 - Nominations Policy
 - Investment Policy

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- Attendance Policy
- Terms of Reference were reviewed for the following Committees, with revisions recommended to the Board:
 - Guidelines Committee
 - Research and Evaluation Committee
 - Education and Implementation Committee
 - Awards Committee
 - Device Recommendation Program Committee
- Membership Committee
 - 2 new members were added to the Committee: Drs. Jonathan Gabor and Jill Bruneau.
 - During the most recent Membership Committee meeting, the Member Value Proposition was reviewed. The Committee decided that the MVP was still relevant, and that rather than revising it, Hypertension Canada should focus on effectively implementing it.
 - The Membership Committee felt that other Committees were not aware of each other's activities and were operating in isolation, making it difficult to achieve shared goals.
 - The Committee drafted a letter outlining the above two points and sent it to the Board.
 - The Board has discussed the letter and is working on a solution to the issues presented.
- Research and Evaluation Committee
 - Dr. Leung recently published an article on the most recent data from the Canadian Health Measures Survey.
 - Several articles were published on the May Measurement Month initiative.

2025 Guidelines Presentation

- Drs. Remi Goupil and Greg Hundemer presented the new guidelines process to the membership.
- HC recently developed new primary care guidelines and encouraged members to submit their feedback through a survey that would be sent out to the membership after the AGM.
- Soon work will begin on the comprehensive guidelines; which will start with a priority setting exercise.
- HC is looking to get the primary care guidelines published in early 2025. The comprehensive guidelines will be released later in 2025 or in early 2026.

New Business

- No new business was presented.

Remarks and Close

Motion: To adjourn the Annual General Meeting.

Moved: P. Braconnier

Second: P. Paradis

Carried

The Chair thanked everyone for their participation in the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

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There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 11:21 am.

Respectfully submitted to the Board of Directors,



Anna Stoutenburg
Senior Operations Specialist