

## **SATiBA AGM**

**5 October 2023 at 12h15**

**Next Biosciences, Midrand**

### **Present:**

- |                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Yvonne Holt          | Next-biosciences (Treasurer) |
| 2. Rizwana Khan         | Next-biosciences             |
| 3. Helena Heystek       | Bone SA                      |
| 4. Moji Mogari          | Bone SA                      |
| 5. Sandra Venter        | Bone SA (Chair)              |
| 6. Marais Steyn         | Bone SA                      |
| 7. Melodie Labushagne   | Bone SA                      |
| 8. Greg Heath           | Bone SA                      |
| 9. Jane Ward            | SABMR                        |
| 10. Michelle Vermeulen  | WCBS                         |
| 11. Elize Scheepers     | CTE                          |
| 12. Marna Horn          | CTE                          |
| 13. Rhyleen Chauke      | CTE                          |
| 14. Tshego Nkonthla     | CTE                          |
| 15. Hida Ramorulana     | CTE                          |
| 16. Hans van den Heever | Homograph bank, UFS          |
| 17. Karin van den Berg  | SANBS                        |
| 18. Tanya Glatt         | SANBS                        |
| 19. Riana Cockeran      | SANBS                        |
| 20. Hazel Bell          | SANBS                        |

21. Avril Maduna	SANBS
22. Ryan Scheepers	Bay Institute
23. Mariette Lowes	SATiBA consultant
24. Elisha Haharaj	Biocair
25. Richard Tough	ODF
26. Theo le Roux	Orthopaedic surgeon & Bone SA
27. VIRTUAL: Carol Tonnesen	KZN Eye Association (Board member)

**Apologies received:**

Michael Pepper	UP
Mande Taubkin	Netcare
Anja Konig	National Tissue Bank

**1. Introduction and quorum:**

Sandra Venter welcomed everyone to the meeting. 70% of members are required to attend the AGM. More than 70% were present, so a quorum was confirmed.

**Notice of meeting:**

Formal notification of the meeting was later than required but all agreed that the meeting may proceed. Everyone received an agenda within the period. There were no questions, and the agenda was closed.

**Confirmation of previous minutes:**

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated and everyone had received a copy. No changes were made, and the previous minutes were accepted as correct.

**2. Chairman's report – Sandra Venter**

Presented by Sandra Venter. Please see attached document – Chairman's Report.

**3. Financial report – Yvonne Holt**

A summary of the income and expenses were presented by Dr Holt and the financial statements will be sent out with the minutes of the AGM. It was

proposed to continue with the services of Wynand Opperman as appointed accounting firm. All in agreement.

4. **Secretarial report** – Yvonne Holt

Yvonne Holt reported on new members which were added, namely Bay Institute as a full ordinary member.

5. **Matters arising** – Sandra Venter

No matters arising from the previous minutes.

6. **Resolution 1:**

Since the departure of Kuben Vather who emigrated to Singapore, Satiba has operated in the absence of a President Elect. In terms of the MOI, this position is appointed by membership vote in an election year which is every odd-numbered year. The implication is that there is currently no clear succession plan in place and that after this year's vote, the position of President will become vacant. It is proposed that current President be reappointed for another second 2-year term and for a new President-Elect to be elected. This would allow a smooth continuation in leadership over the next two years while ensuring that the newly appointed President-Elect has the opportunity to gain the knowledge and experience to take on the role of President at the end of the 2-year term. The implication is still that the Past-President position would temporarily be vacant, but that would be a manageable situation which will correct itself in 2 years' time.

Resolution:

It is proposed that the current President be reappointed for another second 2-year term and for a new President-Elect to be elected.

Resolution seconded by Yvonne Holt.

Resolution accepted by all.

**Resolution 2:**

Nomination was received for Melodie Labuschaigne in the position of President Elect was received it was accepted in writing and that the code of conduct was signed.

Resolution seconded by Moji Mogari

Resolution accepted by all.

7. **Supplementary items: Conference 2024.**

Although no details are available yet, it was confirmed that SATiBA will host a conference in 2024.

8. The meeting closed at 16h05

### **Chairperson's Report**

It gives me great pleasure to report on the last year's activities of SATiBA – the year in which we saw financial recovery for some member banks, but also and unfortunately, the sad closure of some.

Firstly however, a very big thank you to everyone in the sector who contributed to the work – not only of SATiBA but more importantly to the cause of human tissue donation for transplantation to the benefit of patients. Thank you also to every member organization who sacrificially continue to pay membership fees and answer the call when needed. My personal thanks to every board member for their dedication, time and effort spent to ensure all governance matters are dealt with timeously and appropriately. Special thanks must go to Yvonne Holt in her role as treasurer and secretary, often having to engage with members, the bank, accountants, CIPC, etc. – all at no cost to the organization but spending hours of her own precious time to ensure compliance.

On that note, we congratulate Next Biosciences for their agility and ability to adapt to the environment – one of the only members who was able to regroup quickly and expanded their work during and since the pandemic. Thank you also for hosting this year's AGM.

Congratulations also to the WCBS on their 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration this year and the brand-new building and expansion of services – an example to us all! Likewise the SANBS for setting the pace and standard for self-regulation – we salute you!

Thank you and congratulations also to all other members who continue to do what is necessary to answer the call and continue the good work you are doing.

#### International participation

SATiBA continues to be a sister member of the EATCB and an observer member to the WUTBA. It is through our continued involvement with the international tissue banking community and the SATiBA 2022 conference, held in Stellenbosch, outcomes that we were kindly invited to participate at the following events:

- APASTB 2023 – 19<sup>th</sup> Scientific meeting of the Asia Pacific Association of Surgical Tissue Banks in Fukuoka, Japan on 17 – 19 August 2023.
- EBAI – 13<sup>th</sup> National conference on cornea and eye banking in Varanasi, India on 30 Sept – 1 October 2023.
- EATCB 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> Annual congress of the European Association of Tissue and Cell banks in Zagreb, Croatia on 22 – 24 November 2023.

In all three these events the status of tissue banking in SA was (will be) presented and was very well received. Thank you to SATiBA for partly sponsoring the trip to Japan, Bone SA for

sponsoring the trip to India (it coincided with on-site training at an eye bank in Delhi) and True North Projects for sponsoring the trip to Croatia.

The take away message from the Japan meeting: Government control of reimbursement fees (as is the case in most of South East Asia) is dangerous and has become a real threat to the sustainability and existence of tissue banks in the region – hampering effective access to tissue. Having said that, concern was also expressed about the increasing commodification of human tissue around the world and participants were urged to apply sound ethical principles, not only in dealing with donors and patients, but also in the way they conduct business.

Thank you to Moji Mogari of Bone SA who participated in the Eye Donation side meeting at the COECSA annual congress in Mombasa, Kenya on 23 August 2023, who also represented SATiBA. The event was arranged in collaboration with Global Eye Alliance (GAEBA) and the World Union of Tissue Bank Associations (WUTBA) in an effort to promote eye donation programs in Sub-Saharan Africa – a direct result of the Round Table discussion which took place at the 2022 SATiBA congress.

### Projects

- The pilot project in Greys Hospital, Pietermaritzburg which was driven by Yvonne Cordner of the Burn Care Trust was concluded at the end of June 2023. Although the project unfortunately did not impact on deceased donor numbers in the area, some valuable lessons and insight were gained. Our sincere thanks goes to Bone SA who supported this project financially for the past 3 and a half years.
- The Western Cape Forensic Pathology project facilitated by the Vitanova tissue bank is on-going and all indication are that the research question, whether forensic service could be a viable source of deceased tissue donors, is indeed positive and confirmed. The formal project will conclude at the end of February 2024, at which time we hope to publish the results in motivation of expansion to the other SA provinces.
- The project for Biomedical Scientist & Tissue Bank Technician & Technologists registration with the HPCSA has made significant progress under the leadership of Mariette Lowes. A full report will be presented at the Symposium today and will be attached to the minutes.

### Eye banking sector

With reference to the state of eye banking in SA, SATiBA hosted a workshop and established a working group to investigate potential solutions to the current lack of, not only donors, but also skill and infrastructure to facilitate eye banking. Unfortunately, during the past year we witnessed the collapse & closure of the Gauteng Eye Bank and currently there is only one free standing, active eye bank in SA, namely the KZN Eye Bank. The same eye bank is currently responding to eye donors in the Gauteng region. We warmly welcome the newly established Bay Tissue Institute as a new member, who will focus on cornea amniotic membrane banking.

It was recommended by the working group that the multi-tissue banks, namely Vitanova in Cape Town and CTE in Pretoria take up the challenge to expand their skill-set to include eye banking activities. In response to the call, Bone SA has taken up the challenge to expand their activities and demonstrated their commitment to development of the sector through the funding of an educational trip for 3 of its staff members to the Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital in Delhi, India for 10 days of hands-on training. It is our hope that new-found knowledge & skill will in time impact on the cornea output in our country.

#### SATiBA working committee

A personal highlight is the establishment of a SATiBA working committee who will meet at regular interval to facilitate various activities for the organization. It is our hope that this committee will increase associational activities, promote member participation, see the return of regular workshops and create a base for future leadership within the organization. We are grateful to the following individuals who has come on board to lead the organization together with current directors:

Jane Ward, SABMR; Michelle Vermeulen, WCBS; Elize Scheepers, CTE; Hans van den Heever, UFS Homograft bank; Carol Tonnesen, KZN eye bank and Karin van den Berg, SANBS.

Portfolios include: Learning & training opportunities such as workshops; Congress organisation; Website, newsletters, and communication; Finance and fundraising, Ethics, regulatory and accreditation matters and Data collection.

#### Honorary membership

Based on the fact that they were founder members of SATiBA and for many years contributed greatly to SATiBA, a decision was made to award honorary membership to both Prof Michael Pepper and Dr Eduard Sevenster. Thank you once again to Michael for the leadership, guidance and mentorship provided since the inception of SATiBA, having served as both President and Past-President since 2015 to October 2023. Although no longer on the board of directors we will continue to reach out to him as the need arises.

In conclusion, there is much reason for optimism, despite the difficulties recently experience – I firmly believe that we are on track and that the current environment is ideal for further development and growth of our sector.

**Sandra Venter**

President and Chair of the Board

5 October 2023