

Annual General Meeting of the LAI Health Sciences Libraries Group, held at the Headquarters of the Irish College of General Practitioners, Lincoln Place Dublin, at 11:00am on Wednesday 15th May, 2002.

Minutes of the Meeting:

1. Like last year, delegates from all parts of the country were warmly welcomed by Gillian Doran ICGP Librarian, who ensured that morning coffee was freely available.
2. The AGM proper commenced on schedule with Bernard Barrett in the Chair, accompanied by committee members Catherine Breslin, Timothy Collins, Margaret Dillon, Tony Linnane and Angela Rice. The minutes of last year's AGM (HSLG/AGM/00-01) previously circulated via e-mail and distributed at the meeting, were read and accepted as accurate. One non-agenda matter which arose, related to a letter which was handed to Barrett prior to the commencement of the meeting from a group of concerned librarians representing Dublin teaching hospitals. As there had been no time to discuss its contents, it was agreed that the Chairman of the incoming committee would reply to this letter, which dealt with the ongoing work on a revised standards document. The work itself is on the AGM agenda for discussion.
3. Margaret Dillon next circulated copies of the Treasurer's Report, noting that on 30th April 2001, the balance stood at £2,883.58p. With income derived from two sources, namely the Annual Conference in Tullamore (£4,411.84p) and the subvention from the creation of the journals list (£717.47p), the balance at 30th April 2002 stands at £8,012.89, or €10,173.14c. Following some questions, the Treasurer's Report was accepted by the delegates. Subsequently, a vote of thanks to Dillon for her work as Treasurer was passed.
4. Next Barrett submitted the Chairman's Report for the year, noting with satisfaction the success of various ventures undertaken by the committee. First was the successful setting up of the Health Sciences Libraries Group discussion list, which currently has some 90-plus subscribers. This list is being used more and more by members as a quick, efficient and free method of communication. Next was the annual conference, which had been expanded to two days and was agreed by all to have been an outstanding success. A full report of this conference has already been circulated via our group discussion list. Such was the success of this conference, Barrett proposed that the next two-day conference, planned for the autumn, should take place at the same venue, the Bridge House Hotel, and this was agreed to. Although not firmed up as yet, the theme this year will be 'Beyond the virtual library' and will look at evidence-based medicine, research skills and teaching. The proposal to hold the conference on 31st October – 1st November was accepted. It was also agreed that members from other LAI groups would be invited. The incoming committee will have to organise the speakers and the facilities, but a draft programme has been produced by the outgoing committee. Copyright was seen as a major issue and was discussed at length by the committee. As a result, it is planned to hold a workshop on this subject, similar to that hosted by the government libraries group earlier this year and organised by Mary Doyle, Dept of Agriculture in the Library of the Dublin Dental Hospital on one of three dates, 11th, 12th or 17th June. Details of this workshop will be posted on our discussion list shortly.
5. Healthcare library standards took up a significant amount of members' time this year too. The first Standards Workshop was successfully held in Limerick in 2001, but travel restrictions imposed during the Foot and Mouth epidemic prevented a follow-up workshop until this year, when a second Standards Workshop was finally held in Limerick in February 2002. Reports of both of these meetings have been circulated to Group members. The outcome of this second workshop was a working document which covered most, but not all of the areas requiring standards provision. Accreditation was seen to be outside the scope of the present document. Barrett informed the meeting that additional comments on the working document had been accepted up to 26th April last and had been incorporated. Various working parties have been set up since, to comment on the working document and report back to the

committee. With the recommendations of the working parties to hand, it is intended to pass the finished document to the LAI for publication by the end of 2003. Comments from the floor covered members' expectations of what the finished document should contain, especially that something more than a checklist is what is required.

6. Other initiatives included closer working relations with the LAI and the possibility of joint programmes of education and training with relevant semi-state organisations. One such welcome development was the LAI Healthcare Libraries Panel which was set up in 1999, largely due to the efforts of Margaret Dillon. On a point of information, Dillon stated that the next meeting of the Panel would be via a teleconference link the following week. Dillon was also congratulated on her re-election to the LAI Executive Board for 2002-2003, representing the interests of medical and healthcare librarians. A meeting with Dr Ruth Barrington of the Health Research Board is shortly to take place, seeking agreement on joint initiatives, including the funding of Cochrane Library training courses. This includes providing funding for up to four Group members to attend the Cochrane Library Systematic Reviews training courses which are being held in Dublin, Cork, Galway and Belfast. The HRB will also supervise the planned Cochrane Library Prize, which will be given annually, as well as checking the feasibility of granting free all-Ireland access to other quality products, such as Medline and Cinahl.

7. The report of the Interlending Cooperative Sub-committee was presented by Breslin, who stated that there had been two meetings during the year, primarily to assess applications for membership. This Sub-committee is planning to meet again after this year's AGM. Other issues being dealt with include seeking agreement on joint, or group purchasing of journals, with if possible, agreement on consortium deals being made with vendors, something that was raised at the 2001 Annual Conference in Tullamore. The Health Sciences Libraries Group is also in discussion with Muriel Haire on the feasibility of purchasing the database, once contractual obligations have been agreed.

8. On a point of information, the meeting was informed that Beatrice Doran was stepping down as Irish representative of EAHIL (European Association for Health Information and Libraries). An Irish representative to succeed Beatrice is now being sought from among EAHIL members.

9. The election of the committee for 2002-2003 then commenced. Based on the nominations received by Breslin, the following were deemed elected: Bernard Barrett, Catherine Breslin, Timothy Collins, Muriel Haire, Aoife Lawton, Tony Linnane, Niamh Lucey, Niamh O'Sullivan, Emma Quinn, Angela Rice. Because of pressure of work, and her appointment to the Executive Board of the LAI, Margaret Dillon did not go forward for re-election. A vote of thanks for her many years of service to the Group as Treasurer was recorded and passed. It was then agreed that the incoming committee would meet as soon as is convenient to elect officers.

10. There were a number of queries arising under Any Other Business:

i. The present status of the Dept of Health and Children's Library and Information Service was queried. Recent dialogue in the Dail on this subject (published in the *Dail Report*), where Minister Micheal Martin's answer to a question was vague and unsatisfactory, seems to indicate that this service is now for inhouse staff use only. Following comments from the floor, it appears that a detailed study of the service is to be carried out by the Department and a strategic plan compiled. All agreed that the appointment of a Librarian is a priority for the Department.

ii. In answer to a question regarding the appointment of a Director to the LAI, Margaret Dillon informed the meeting that a decision on this would shortly be made by the Executive Board of the LAI.

iii. Breslin asked members to continue to make full use of the Group discussion list, to pass on relevant information to members and as a forum for discussing common issues.

11. Following a vote of thanks from the floor on the continuing good work being done by the committee, the meeting ended c.1:15pm with a light lunch provided by the ICGP, after which there was a demonstration of the Horizon Inter Library Loan module by Interleaf Technology.

Compiled by:

Timothy Collins,  
Recording Secretary,  
HSLG,  
8th Sept 2003.

## ATTENDANCE

NAME	ORGANISATION
Adams, Niamh	Irish Nurses Organisation
Barrett, Bernard	Mid Western Health Board
Brennan, Lilian	St John of God
Breslin, Catherine	Sligo General
Burke, Eimear	St Vincent's Psychiatric
Carton, Patsy	St Michael's House
Collins, Timothy	NUI, Galway
Delaney, Helen	Rotunda
Dillon, Margaret	Mid Western Regional
Doran, Gillian	Irish College of General Practitioners
Doyle, Gabrielle	St Luke's Institute
Faulkner, Sue	Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary
Feeney, Suzanne	Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children
Gallaher, Berni	Our Lady's Hospice
Haire, Muriel	Irish Nurses Organisation
Halpin, Amanda	Dublin City University
Harrison, Jean	Our Lady of Lourdes
Keating, Sandra	Midland Health Board, Tullamore
Kennedy, Brigid	St John of God
Kenny, Tara	Bon Secours, Cork
Lawton, Aoife	ERHA, Dr Steevens
Lennox, Colette	St Columcille's, Loughlinstown
Linnane, Tony	Western Health Board
Mhic Amhlaigh, Aine	St Francis Hospice
McMahon, Anne	Food Safety Authority of Ireland
Morgan, Margaret	Midland Health Board, Tullamore
Murphy, Anne	Adelaide & Meath, Tallaght
Murphy, Paul	U.C.D.
O'Byrne, Anne	Dublin Dental School
O'Neill, Siobhan	Stewarts, Dublin
O'Sullivan, Niamh	Irish Blood Transfusion Service
Quinn, Ciaran	ERHA, Dr Steevens
Rice, Angela	Mater Misericordiae
Wilcox, Anita	South Infirmary/Victoria