

## PathWest Board Communiqué

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the August 2022 Board meeting.

### Member attendance:

Ms. Angie Paskevicius (Chair)

Prof. Christobel Saunders

Mr. Kevin Taylor

Mr. Robert McPhee – *via VC*

Ms. Susan Rooney – *via VC*

Prof. Tarun Weeramanthri

Prof. Gelareh Farshid – *via VC*

Ms. Michele Dolin

Mr. Tony Vis

### Apologies:

Ms. Samantha Elder

### August 2022 Board Meeting

The August 2022 Board meeting was held at the QEII Medical Campus in the Harry Perkins Building, and was our first face to face meeting for 2022 with Prof. Christobel Saunders joining us from Melbourne, Victoria. This was the first meeting for our new Board Members Tony Vis and Susan Rooney, and it was an opportunity to say farewell to Dr Kim Hames, who has been a Member since 2020. The Board expressed its sincere thanks to Dr Hames for his commitment and hard work as an inaugural member of the PathWest Board and wished him all the very best for his new endeavours.

### Key matters for decision / discussion:

#### Media Manufacturing Unit

Ian Kay, Dr James Flexman and Sally Duncan, from the Media Manufacturing Unit (MMU) provided the Board with a very informative presentation on this unique PathWest facility, which is the only one of its kind in Western Australia (WA). The Board was very interested to hear how the unit support and respond to the needs of optimal microbiological diagnosis and research through the manufacture and supply of microbiological culture media, reagents and stains.

The Board noted the MMU's recent outstanding achievement whereby the MMU successfully dispatched COVID-19 units for PCR testing to Columbia University in New York City.

#### Regional Staff Support

Executive Director of Operations, Paul Schneider provided the Board with an overview of significant logistical and people challenges for our staff living and working in regional and remote areas of WA. The Board was pleased to learn about the current planned initiatives, improvements and the continued engagement and connection with our staff in regional and remote areas. The Board is aware of this significant important issue and look forward to receiving regular updates to enable it to monitor the progress of the improvement initiatives.

## LIS Independent Review Report

The team from Deloitte provided an informative overview to the Board on Phase 2 of the LIS Independent Review Report. The Board noted the key points in the report on the LIS maturity assessment, the high level review of initiatives and progress on modules supporting disciplines and their progress.

The Board will continue to receive regular updates on the LIS Project.

## Committee updates:

The Board was provided with an overview of the Safety and Quality Committee meeting held on 28 June 2022. The Committee was advised that substantial improvement on the Work Health and Safety Report was identified by the auditors in comparison to the November 2019 audit. The Committee commended Scott Beaton and his team for the significant effort that has gone into addressing outstanding issues across all of the five key indicator areas and looked forward to the final report being presented at the next meeting.

Forensic Biology Advisory Council had its third (3<sup>rd</sup>) meeting of the year on 21 June 2022. The Board was provided with an update, noting that the number of exhibits submitted for analysis in 2022 was predicted to be ~5.2% above the number submitted in 2021.

## A message from the Board Chair

Quite a lot has happened since our previous Board meeting in June, as there is no Board meeting in July.

Adrian, our Chief Executive and I had a successful and productive visit to Broome. Unfortunately, due to flight changes, we were unable to visit Derby during our stay, but met with the PathWest team in Broome and Mark Steicke, the Medical Scientist in Charge, Regional Support Services, who drove down from Derby to meet us. We also caught up with key people at WACHS, KAMS and BRAMS. It was good to meet everyone and hear firsthand about the great work that is happening in this part of WA.

During the last two months I have started meeting with Heads of Departments and other members of the PathWest team. This has been an opportunity for me to learn more about the amazing and varied work that we do at PathWest as well as understand some of the challenges and opportunities that the people are dealing with. I want to thank everyone for taking the time to meet with me.

The Board welcomed two new Directors, Susan Rooney and Tony Vis to the Board. Both have an extensive experience as CEOs and Non-Executive Directors. Please say hello to them as you see them out and about as part of their onboarding process.

## **Congratulations**

- Dr Gavin Turbett and the Forensic Biology team on the twenty (20) year Anniversary of the WA DNA Database. The database had been authorised by the then Minister for Police for PathWest Forensic Biology to create, keep, operate, control and manage.
- Carolyn Grove and her team on the new clinical trial “Molecular Screening and Therapeutics in Leukaemia and Lymphoma”.
- Dianne De Santis and her team for being named a finalist of the Healthcare and Life Sciences 2022 for “Donor Match Technology”.

**Next Meeting**

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held at QEII Medical Campus and via MS Teams on Thursday, 1 September 2022.

*Ms. Paske*

Ms. Angie Paskevicius  
**Chair, PathWest Board**  
4 August 2022



**Angie Paskevicius**



**Tarun Weeramanthri**



**Gelareh Farshid**



**Kevin Taylor**



**Michele Dolin**



**Christobel Saunders**



**Rob McPhee**



**Samantha Elder**



**Susan Rooney**



**Tony Vis**