



AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEPHROLOGY

Leading Nephrology in Africa

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Minutes: AFRAN ExCo Meeting

7 May 2025, 20h00 – 22h19 SAST

Attended		
Prof Abdou Niang	AN	President
Dr Mohamed Hany Hafez	MHH	Past President
Prof Facial Jarraya	FJ	General Secretary
Prof Rasha Darwish	RD	Treasurer
Dr Khalida Soki	KS	Deputy General Secretary
Prof Sidi Aly Abdellatif	SAA	Deputy Treasurer
Apologies		
Prof Fatiu Arogundade	FA	President Elect

Action Points:

Draft a document outlining benefits of corporate membership for potential sponsors. Work with pharmaceutical companies to establish corporate memberships and sponsorship contracts.	TS & ExCo
Prepare and sign an official contract with NESOT regarding the 2026 Congress organization. Schedule an official meeting with NESOT board to discuss Congress organization details.	ExCo
Create a WhatsApp group for AFRAN executive and NESOT executive members for Congress coordination.	
Complete and organize the list of attendees from the Tunis General Assembly.	FJ
Work with Theola to update the membership lists. Send letters to members holding positions regarding membership renewal by July 2024. Ensure the membership payment link is visible on the website.	FJ, RD, TS
Circulate the existing corporate membership document to all board members	
Membership 2026 - Send membership deadline communications - active members by end of January 2026, non-active members by April 1st 2026	TS
Constitution: Review and provide final remarks on Constitution within one week. Coordinate French translation of Constitution after final draft approval. Post the final Constitution in PDF format on the website in both English and French.	AN, FJ
Committees - Select new co-chairs from their respective committees. Contact Malcolm Davis to confirm if he's willing to be the Research Committee chair. RD with Ayman Rifi as well. KS to discuss with Elliot Koranteng Tannor about chairing the Prevention and Advocacy Committee.	ExCo

TS to send official appointment letters to new chairs and thank you letters to outgoing chairs. RD to organise a meeting with the PD Committee to discuss leadership and responsibilities. SAA to create and lead the new Green Nephrology working group. Contact FJ to establish Co-Chair position. FJ to organise and lead the formation of the Nurses Committee with representatives from English and French speaking countries. AN to formulate internal responsibilities for the ExCo.	
FJ to launch a poll to determine a meeting date with National Societies in June.	FJ
FL to work on website improvements for presentation at the next meeting.	FJ
Review and respond to Nihal's proposal about collaboration with American society on glomerulonephritis.	ExCo
Establish a formal process for handling endorsement requests from local societies.	AN and TS
Meet with Gianfranco Parati in Milan to discuss potential collaboration for Tanzania meeting.	FJ
Set up an AFRAN stand at the Nouakchott forum and coordinate media coverage with RFI. RD to coordinate with Abdellatif regarding the preparation of flyers for the Nouakchott forum.	SAA, RD

ExCom Meeting: Welcome and Agenda

The ExCom meeting began with welcome addresses from the Past President MHH and the new President AN. AN outlined general points for his mandate.

AFRAN's Organization and Membership Discussion

The Executive Committee (ExCo) discussed several important points regarding AFRAN's organization and membership. AN outlined his plans for the next two years, emphasizing the need to define roles and responsibilities within the board and establish regular meetings. The committee agreed to schedule a board meeting in late May and create a WhatsApp group for better communication. They also addressed the issue of unpaid memberships, with AN and RD suggesting targeted reminders, prioritizing active members, and creating a WhatsApp group for current members to encourage renewals and foster a sense of belonging.

Strategies for AFRAN Membership Growth

The discussion focuses on strategies to increase AFRAN membership and generate income. RD suggested contacting local society presidents and offering group memberships, citing successful examples from South Africa and other countries. KS raised the need for an easy online payment system for membership renewals. The group discussed the importance of corporate memberships and sponsorships, with FJ and RD emphasizing the need to approach pharmaceutical companies for funding. They also considered creating a dedicated fundraising group within AFRAN. The conversation concluded with suggestions to improve communication with members, including sending welcome emails and creating a WhatsApp group.

AFRAN Membership Renewal and Congress

The ExCo discussed the deadline for membership renewal and the creation of a new WhatsApp group for paying AFRAN members. It was decided that committee members should pay within one month, while non-active members have until July. For 2026, All ExCo and Committee members must pay by the end of January. The group also addressed issues with the upcoming AFRAN Congress in Tanzania, emphasizing the need for a clear contract between AFRAN and the local organizing committee to ensure proper representation and financial management. They plan to engage with the Tanzanian colleagues early to provide guidance and establish official agreements.

Committee Chair Changes and Selections

The group discussed changes to various committee chairs and members. They agreed that Rim Goucha would become the chair of the Renal Pathology committee, with Wesam Ismail becoming the past chair. For the Web and Media committee, Nihal from Sudan is proposed as the new chair. The group decided that for all committees, the new chair will select a co-chair from their committee members. For the research committee, they considered Malcolm Davis from South Africa, who had expressed interest in joining. They also discuss Valerie as a potential candidate for the Prevention and Advocacy committee. For the Prevention and Advocacy committee, they proposed Elliot from Ghana as a potential chair, noting his expertise in kidney disease prevention. The group emphasizes the importance of having active chairs who can dedicate time to their roles.

Committee Appointments and Leadership Concerns

The group discussed appointments for various committee positions within their organization. They agree to approach Ayman Rifi for the Research Committee chair and Elliott for the Advocacy Committee chair. KS will speak with Elliott, while MHH and RD will discuss with Ayman. FJ has prepared appointment letters, which KS will review. The group also addressed concerns about Prof. Samson's leadership of the PD Committee due to communication issues and availability, suggesting a committee meeting to potentially reassign roles. They considered Wesley van Hougenhouck-Tulleken for a co-chair position in the Nephrogenetics working group and discuss applying term limits to committee chairs as per their new constitution.

AFRAN Establishes New Working Groups

The board discussed the creation of new working groups within AFRAN. They agreed to establish a Green Nephrology group, with SAA as chair and FJ as co-chair. They also decided to create a nurses group and a patients group, with FJ taking the lead on organizing the nurses group. The board acknowledged that these new committees may take time to become fully active. Additionally, they begin to discuss a proposal from Nicola Wearne for the Women in Nephrology (WIN) group to join AFRAN as a division, but the discussion is not concluded.

WIN's Status and AFRAN's Future

The board discussed the status of Women in Nephrology (WIN) within AFRAN. There was confusion about whether WIN should be a committee or a separate division of AFRAN. The board members express concerns

about the timing of WIN's recent actions, which coincided with their leader's unsuccessful bid for AFRAN presidency. They decide to invite WIN leaders to a meeting with AFRAN executives to clarify the situation. The board agreed that WIN can either become AFRAN's 12th committee or establish itself as a separate society outside of AFRAN.

AFRAN Administrative Matters and Future Plans

The ExCo discussed several administrative matters and future plans for AFRAN. The ExCo planned to update the website, organize a meeting with national societies, and draft internal rules. FJ proposed collaborating with the World Hypertension League to address hypertension in Africa. The committee also discusses the need for more African involvement in pharmaceutical studies and research. Lastly, they prepare for an upcoming forum in Nouakchott, emphasizing the importance of promoting AFRAN and transplantation at the event.

The meeting ended with AN thanking all for a productive meeting and advised that he looked forward to working with all to achieve the set out objectives.

The meeting ended at 22h19 SAST.