



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
AOA RESEARCH FOUNDATION LIMITED  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2025 AT 3:45PM, AEDT  
HOTEL GRAND CHANCELLOR, HOBART AND ONLINE**

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| <b>Chair</b>                 | Dr Sina Babazadeh (AOARF Board General Director) chaired the meeting on behalf of AOARF Board Chair, Dr Claudia Di Bella.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Acknowledgement</b>       | In the spirit of reconciliation the AOA and AOARF acknowledged the Muwinina people, the traditional owners of the land upon which we gather. Acknowledgment and respects were paid to all Tasmanian Aboriginal Communities. Respects were paid to Elders past, present and Aboriginal colleagues who may be present were acknowledged.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Apologies and proxies</b> | Apologies were received from Claudia Di Bella, Richard de Steiger and Tom Ward. No proxies were noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Minutes</b>               | <b>Resolution:</b> The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14 October 2024 were confirmed as a correct record of proceedings at that meeting (resolution passed).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Chair's Report</b>        | <p>Sina Babazadeh presented the report on behalf of chair, Claudia Di Bella.</p> <p>The chair noted that 29 grant applications were received in total for 2025 (24 regular, 4 early career researcher applications and 1 PhD application) and congratulated the successful applicants. Seven grants, two early career researcher and five regular grants, were awarded in total. One John Owen PhD Pathway scholarship was awarded.</p> <p>The chair informed members that the previous AOARF Strategic Plan (2028-2024) concluded in December 2024 and that the majority of milestones had been completed. The new AOARF Strategic Plan (2025-2027) launched in April 2025. The vision of the new plan is to <i>“enable exceptional patient centred research to drive improvements in the treatment of musculoskeletal disorders and injuries”</i>. Members were advised that the complete plan can be viewed online via the AOARF website.</p> <p>The chair expressed appreciation to fellow 2025 members of the Foundation's Board and the members of the Research Advisory Committee for their ongoing support of the AOARF Board and Foundation.</p> |
| <b>Financial Statements</b>  | The financial reports for the year ended 30 June 2025 were presented by the chair. The reports of the Directors and the Auditor were tabled and presented for discussion. The chair commented on the continuing strong financial position of the AOARF, including cash flow and equity. The surplus for the last financial year was slightly lower than in previous years due to the direct appointment of a staff member by AOARF.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

**Resolution:** The Financial Report and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors for the financial year ended 30 June 2025 were approved. (Resolution passed).

**AOARF Director Increase**

The chair reported to the membership that in conjunction with the AOARF Strategic Plan (2025-2027), the Board has recommended the appointment of an external community representative member to join the Board. Currently, the maximum number of AOARF Board Directors is nine, unless the company in a general meeting resolves otherwise. The Board has therefore proposed an increase of AOARF Board Directors from 9-10. If approved, this additional position would be an AOA Board appointed Director position (in-line with the Articles of Association).

**Resolution:** The increase of the total number of directors of the Company (i.e. AOA Research Foundation) from nine (9) to ten (10) was approved. (Resolution passed).

**AOARF Acknowledgments**

On behalf of the Board, the chair congratulated Zsolt Balogh on his re-appointment to the position of General Director by the AOA Board for a further term of four years, effective November 2025.

The chair extended his sincere thanks and presented a plaque to David Martin for his outstanding contributions and commitment to the Foundation over his 12-year tenure. It was noted that David Martin retired from the AOA Research Foundation Board as chair and General Director, effective October 2024 and is currently the longest serving Board Member of the Foundation.

**Other Business**

No other business was raised.

**Closure**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3:57pm.