Minutes of NgoRS Board Meeting (October 2026)

Date: 13th October 2026
Time: 5 am CDT, 6 am EDT, 11 am BST, 8 pm AEST, 11 pm NZST
Location: online (zoom)
Chair: Jennifer Edwards (President)

Board Members Present (in alphabetical order):
Alison Criss (Treasurer)
Jennifer Edwards (President)
Rachel Exley (Secretary)
Odile Harrison (At-large Member)
Trevor Moraes (At-large Member)
Evgeny Semchenko (At-large Member)
Julie Stoudenmire (At-large Member)
Anastasia Unitt (Trainee member)
Crista Wadsworth (Director of Communications)

Absent Board Members (in alphabetical order):
Joanna Hicks (President elect)
Kate Seib (At-Large Board Member)
Hank Seifert (Ex Officio Member)

1. **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**
   Current balance is $24,781.39.

2. **Brief summary of Trivia Lunch at IPNC**
   Evgeny thanked all those in attendance for their participation and Alexis for help setting up. There were 36 attendees (of ~180 total), and the event ran for 30-40 mins, with around 20 trivia questions. Overall, it was a good event. All members who wanted to participate did and all received a crocheted gonococcus. Photo links have been sent out. Thanks were given to Nathan and his daughter for the crocheted gonococci and to Jenn for the ribbons.

3. **Crocheted gonococci**
   Nathan's daughter provided 34 gonococci for use at the IPNC as (door) prizes/awards. The crocheted gonococci have been costed at $10 each. Half the cost will be covered as a donation. The remaining half ($170 USD) is to be paid by the Society. **ACTION: Jenn to follow up with Hank to arrange payment.**

   Jenn raised the idea of making more of these as a fundraiser for the Society. Julie volunteered to teach interested Board members how to make the crocheted gonococci using the protocol available on the NgoRS website. A video chat/crochet happy hour for Board members was proposed to learn and crochet together. The current plan is to have sufficient stock for sales at the IPNC 2028. **ACTION: please all help crochet gonococci!**

4. **ECR paper award.**
   All members agreed upon the award for the current nominated paper. Jenn will contact the winner.

5. **4th NgoRS Conference**

Next conference will be in fall 2027. Jenn highlighted the need for the planning to begin soon due to the amount of work involved. Ana, Ev and Crista offered to help organize the meeting with Joanna serving as Chair.

ACTIONS: Jenn will forward this information to Joanna.

ACTIONS: Joanna, Ana, Ev and Crista to decide when to meet to discuss plans.

6. **Holiday Puzzle book**

A puzzle book has been chosen as the holiday gift for this year. Jenn asked each Board member to send through one puzzle and one baby picture for a "guess who" puzzle. Different types of puzzles are welcomed. **ACTIONS: all to send baby picture and puzzle to Jenn before November 28th/29th.**

7. **Other items**

Lifetime Achievement Award/Honorary recognition

The board discussed various options and ideas for recognition awards at NgoRS 2027 and/or IPNC 2028. Suggestions included travel awards, named talk, *in memorium* lecture. The board agreed that the Society fund a M. Apicella travel award for IPNC 2028.

Awards for Virtual Conferences

For virtual conferences an award for best talk/abstract/presentation was put forward. Board members would be judges and the winners announced at the end of the conference. All members agreed this did not need to be a named award. For NgoRS 2027, it was proposed that a committee of 6-7 members in EST time zone could be the judges. Judges will need to attend all sessions of the conference.

Seminar Series

The next seminar series will be on 28th October. Details will be sent to Crista. **ACTIONS: Ana will contact Holly Floyd and get details to send to Crista. Crista to advertise.**

Membership

There was general discussion of various ways to drum up support for the Society. Membership numbers fluctuate, especially among trainees. Suggestions included sending out adverts prior to the virtual conference and nominating meritorious posters from IPNC for talks at NgoRS. Approaching PIs to remind them that membership is free for trainees and to highlight the advantages of membership (*e.g*. protocols, The Voice past and future issues) was also proposed. A mailing list has been compiled; it was noted that Bcc should be used when emailing. It was agreed that distinct emails to announce IPNC 2028, bids for 2030/32, and NgoRS 2027 would be the most effective strategy.