



Summary Minutes for EPSIG Executive Committee Meeting 1 July 2025

Attended:

Riadh Abed (RA) Chair, Nikhil Chaudhary, Lenny Cornwall, David Geaney, Adam Hunt, Paul Keedwell, Arif Khan, Paul St John-Smith (PSJS) Newsletter Editor, Annie Swanepoel (AS) Finance Officer, Ursula Paredes, Elena Titova-Chaudhary

Apologies:

Reem Abed, Agnes Ayton, Tom Carpenter, Monica Francis (PTC rep), Emily Jackson (PTC rep), Muzaffer Kaser, Henry O'Connell, Derek Tracy

1. RA welcomed the 2 new EC members present (Paul Keedwell and Ursula Paredes) and invited them to introduce themselves. Unfortunately, the other 3 new EC members were not present and we look forward to welcoming them at a future meeting.
2. AS reported that she continues to receive monthly financial statements from the college regarding our financial reserves even though all SIG monies now are controlled centrally by the college.
3. The question of whether to hold the 4th EPSIG Annual Trainee Engagement Workshop (2026) F2F or virtually was discussed at length with the pros and cons of each option considered. The conclusion of the discussion was that we will continue to hold the room booking at the college (Friday, 13 March 2026) and aim to hold both a F2F AND a virtual trainee event during 2026. (Tom Carpenter, Monica Francis and Emily Jackson: Please note this decision as this will entail planning for these events).
4. The item regarding the Shadow Trainee Executive Committee was deferred due to Tom Carpenter's absence.
5. Impact Funding Update (University of Cambridge). Nikhil Chaudhary updated the group on the ongoing work funded by Impact funding (educational leaflets for expectant mothers incorporating evolutionary insights). This will now be removed as a standing item and be listed as and when required in future agendas.

6. Charles Darwin Essay Prize: AS reported that this year's round is now under way and the winners will be offered a 10 minute slot each to present their work at the EPSIG symposium.
7. PSJS reported that he plans to publish the 39th EPSIG newsletter by the end of July and invited colleagues to send him their contributions/announcements.
8. AS reported that the arrangements for the 7th International EPSIG Symposium on 21 November 2025 is now live and open for registration. This will be a virtual event held via Zoom. We have a great line-up of speakers: Gurjot Brar, Giada Cordini, Gul Deniz Salali, Dan Stein, Alfonso Troisi, Jerome Wakefield. Any help with the promotion of this event is greatly appreciated.
9. There was a brief review of the successful Evolutionary Psychiatry conference held at the RSM in London on 9 June. Members who attended the conference gave very positive feedback of this event. However, it was noted that this was a one-off EP event by the Section of Psychiatry at the RSM. Such a conference is unlikely to be repeated as there is intense competition for bookings at the RSM by a wide range of medical and psychiatric specialisms. We greatly appreciate Derek Tracy's initiative on getting this EP conference approved by the RSM.
10. Should we pay Speaker Fees at our future conferences? This issue was discussed by the group. It was noted that there can be very rare occasions when speakers who are not members/fellows of the college, not service users (who are covered by existing college rules) and not affiliated to any academic/university department who may be dependent on fees for their income. It was agreed that in such exceptional cases we may consider payment of speaker fees while being fully cognizant of the potential problems and pitfalls of paying some speakers but not others. Also, we note that prior budgeting and authorisation will be required by the college for such payments.
11. Mental Health Charity: Adam Hunt gave a brief update on the progress of the Evolution and Mental Health Charity Foundation. The website is now live and there is an Advisory Board in place. The charity will have a small launch event which will be combined with an EP debating event on 31 August in Cambridge. Registration is open for this event.
12. Links with the Turkish EP Group. This item was not discussed due to the absence of Muzaffer Kaser. It will be listed on future agendas if there is anything to report.
13. Links with the EP Section of the WPA: The election of new officers for the section will be taking place in the near future.
14. AOB: The issue of the timing of the EC meetings was discussed as this was raised by Muzaffer Kaser and endorsed by Reem Abed, Agnes Ayton and Tom Carpenter. The suggestion was made to vary the timing of the EC meetings so that they are not always at 7pm (which can interfere with family commitments). Currently, we have 3 virtual EC meetings at 7pm and one virtual AGM at 2pm

annually. In response to this suggestion, the group decided to shift one of the 3 EC meetings to daytime hours and see if this suits a greater number of our members.

The next meeting will be the AGM on 12 September 2pm via Zoom. This will be open to all EPSIG members and will be administered by the college admin. An email will go out to all EPSIG members and you will need to register for the meeting in order to receive a joining link.

