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Dear EACH Committee

My name is Kristy Fakes and I am a research academic from the University of Newcastle, Australia. I would like to apply for the position of Deputy National Representative for Australia. I am based within the Newcastle Centre of Excellence in Cardio-Oncology, a collaborative program with the University of Newcastle, Hunter Medical Research Institute, and Hunter New England Local Health District, whose members are internationally recognised scientists and clinicians who conduct translational research to improve health outcomes.

I believe I would make a great representative for Australia and meet all listed criteria for nominees:

- ***I have been a member of EACH for at least two years.*** I have been a member of EACH for four years, since 2019-20 (with only a one-year break in 2021 due to 12 months maternity leave) and have taken part in a range of EACH activities. In 2022 I attended the ICCH Conference in Scotland, where I participated in a pre-conference workshop, took part in the Australian member meet-up, presented research, and co-chaired one of the sessions (patient evaluation of care). This year I have reviewed abstracts for ICCH 2024.
- ***I have experience in research, teaching and/or policy in the field of communication in healthcare.*** I have experience in research in the field of communication in healthcare that I believe would be of benefit to this position. I am a behaviourist scientist and research only academic (PHD awarded 2019) within the School of Medicine and Public Health, College of Health and Medicine, University of Newcastle, Australia. My research focuses on improving patient preparedness for medical interventions, quality of care, and psychosocial outcomes for people with chronic conditions including cardiovascular disease and cancer. This includes delivering educational interventions via digital health platforms. I have significant experience in the development, implementation, and evaluation of studies to assess patient experience and outcomes, including both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. I led cardiovascular research which was recognised as a Finalist in the 2021 Hunter New England Health Excellence Awards (category: Transforming patient experience) and won a cross-discipline collaboration award.  
I have obtained over \$3,000,000 in competitive grant funding as a chief investigator; co-supervised one Master's candidate to completion, and am currently supervising PhD and Master's candidates. I have co-authored 29 publications, taking into account two career disruptions within the last five years. My PhD examined patient preparation for medical interventions. This encompassed development and testing of a new patient-reported experience measure assessing patients' preparedness for medical interventions, further demonstrating my experience in research in the field of communication in healthcare.
- ***I can put general above personal interest.*** I would put the needs and interests of EACH above my own personal interests. I have the leadership and management skills to do this. Examples of my professional skills, leadership, and management expertise relevant to this representative position include most recently, I was an organising committee member for Digital Health Week 2024 (hosted by Hunter Medical Research Institute, University of Sydney, and the University of

New South Wales in Australia). In 2020 I was a member of Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) State Committee (Newcastle) and involved in facilitating the 2020 ASMR High Schools Career Evening. I was member of the Hunter Cancer Research Alliance Symposium Scientific Committee from 2018-19, with roles including symposium organisation, abstract and poster review. I have also reviewed funding proposals for internal University of Newcastle grants schemes. I am an Associate Editor of the journal *BMC Endocrine Disorders* and regularly provide peer review of manuscripts for other journals including *Quality of Life Research*, *Supportive Care in Cancer*, *Value in Health*, *European Journal of Cancer Care*, *Journal of the American College of Radiology*, and *Patient Education and Counseling*.

- ***I can commit to the 2-year role.*** Should my application for Deputy National Representative be successful, I can commit to the two-year role. I would also be interested in committing to further years if re-elected.

I would like to be the Deputy National Representative for Australia, as I believe it would be great opportunity to show and further develop my leadership skills as well as connect and build new relationships. Now that I have taken part in a number of EACH activities, I would value the opportunity to take part in the association.

I aspire to be a research leader in health behaviour focusing on patient preparation for testing and treatment, developing and translating evidence into practice for patients with cardiovascular disease. Thus, in addition to the opportunity to be a representative for EACH members from Australia, for me, the position of Deputy National Representative for Australia presents a great career development opportunity, and would provide a variety of great benefits and opportunity of interest to me, including learning, discussion and networking opportunities, such as the ability to connect and learn from global leaders, and forge international relationships.

I hope you will consider my nomination for this position. If you need any additional details, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Kristy Fakes