



Association for  
Palliative Medicine

# The Association for Palliative Medicine Of Great Britain and Ireland

## Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 12 March 2024

Virtual AGM | Microsoft Teams

### 01/24 **Welcome from President** (Dr Sarah Cox)

Dr Sarah Cox welcomed members to the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and introduced herself to everyone in attendance. Dr Cox outlined the topics covered during the AGM and explained that all members with voting rights will receive a link to vote after the AGM has taken place.

### 02/24 **Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting** (Dr Sarah Cox)

As part of the 2024 AGM papers, members had sight of the 2023 AGM minutes and during the meeting Dr Cox asked for a proposer and seconder to agree the minutes as an accurate record.

**Proposer:** Dr Benoit Ritzenthaler

**Secunder:** Dr Suzanne Kite

### 03/24 **President's Report** (Dr Sarah Cox)

A large part of APM work in the last 12 months has been looking at the structure and governance of the Association and identifying whether the APM is fit for purpose for the future. As part of this work the APM seconded Jane Ratford from the RCP as interim COO and this employment will run until October 2024. Following a review of the APM, Jane Ratford produced 15 recommendations for the APM and these were approved by the APM Board in January 2024. During the AGM, Dr Sarah Cox outlined each recommendation and presented the new APM governance structure. Members are able to view these recommendations and the report via the APM website.

Dr Sarah Cox also spoke about Workforce including:

- SAS doctors – The APM has been promoting the Framework for SAS doctors to work as responsible clinicians. The deadline for CESR is October 2024.
- Specialist Trainees – The APM continue to fund the SCE Flashcards for APM members. SCE takes place every 9 months. In 2025 SCE will take place in March and December.
- GPwER (GPs with extended roles) – SAC led by Polly Edmonds have developed a curriculum for GPwER and this is almost ready for GPs to access.
- e-ELCA – Led by Dr Sarah Hanrott. e-ELCA is moving over to a new platform and this will be open access so does not require nhs.net email address. Dr Cox asked members to consider reviewing sessions.
- Credentialing in Palliative Medicine with GMC – This may also be available in the future
- RCP workforce roundtable

Dr Sarah Cox also spoke about Engagement including:

- Government policy, consultations and inquiries – The APM has responded to many consultations including the AD and COVID inquiries.

- RCP – MCDC is a way of producing multimedia content around a certain topic. The APM will feature in May and the focus is around admission avoidance.
- National PEOLC Clinical Director and regional leads.
- Closer links with Marie Curie, Sue Ryder, Hospice UK. Hospice UK have supported the APM with the development of the environmental sustainability strategy.
- Ambitions Partnership
- Closer links with the APPM
- EAPC – Mark Taubert sponsored Board member. The EAPC conference in Barcelona is sold out but the 2025 conference still has availability.

*SC handed over to SK*

#### 04/24 **Vice President's Report** (Dr Suzanne Kite)

Dr Kite acknowledged the excellent work carried out by committees over the last 12 months.

##### **What's happening at national level that we have influenced?**

The APM have been invited to give written and oral evidence at a number of inquiries. SK thanked the Research and Ethics committee as well as Dr Matthew Doré for their work with these inquiries. Specifically, Westminster March 2023 and Oireachtas December 2023.

Health Services Safety Investigation Body (HSSIB)

HSSIB Syringe Pumps – Technical safety issue around alerts and alarms

HSSIC PEOLC Good Practice guide for ME - The APM have inputted to this work and the report is due imminently

Frailty Assessment and Management RCP/Royal College of Radiologists – The APM commented on the guidance

Major Conditions Strategy – The APM responded to this NHS England review around how we improve outcomes and better meet the needs of our population, which is becoming older and living with multimorbidity.

CMO report – The APM was asked to write a palliative care entry to the annual report of the Chief Medical Officer of England, Professor Chris Whitty.

##### **What's happening that we need to know about/engage with?**

Environmental Sustainability – The APM met with Hospice UK and members of the Palliative Care Sustainability Network. We identified areas in which we could collaborate and have some excellent resources for members to look at on the website if interested in environmental sustainability.

ICB requirements to fund palliative care – what is your ICB/commissioner doing?

SPC service specification – any feedback on use would be gratefully received.

##### **What else is the APM doing?**

Busy, productive committees and SIFs

Developing new website

Abe Guz fellowship

FAMCARE: Celebrating and evaluating 10 year

New Academic Trainee SIF and Public Health SIF

New EDI Committee

Education: A wide and plentiful offer

SEECare paper published

Hospice UK/APM: Echoes

*SK handed over to NW*

#### 05/24 **Treasurers Report** (Dr Natasha Wiggins)

Charity accounts don't just include money in the bank, they also consider investments (APM website), money coming in for something in the future (PCC bookings) and also money expected to go out that hasn't yet left the bank (contract with PCF).

Restricted funds – Cannot choose what this money is spent on. This includes e-ELCA, Abe Guz and APM Juniors money.

Unrestricted funds – Funds that do not have restrictions.

APM membership has increased year on year and this has been supported by PCF access. Membership fees haven't increased for a number of years, however, these may be reviewed next year.

Education – To deliver quality education and break even which was achieved in 2023.

APM Junior money – This money has been brought in house to ensure all funds are kept in one place. This money can be spent on Junior events only.

**Investment:**

- 12-month contract for COO, review processes and implementing change.
- Abe Guz fellow to collate breathlessness resources for professionals as well as patients and their families.

**Endorsement:**

- New education board game – BedRace. Focusing to Palliative and end of life care. The APM receives 5% profit (£2.50) for each game sold.

**Reduction of loss and risk:**

- Moved some money into different accounts.
- Ensured the companies demonstrate ethical banking.
- Aligns interest with inflation.
- Money is covered if unexpected crisis.

*NW handed over to SC*

Ratification of Accounts

**Proposer:** Dr Bernadette Brady

**Seconder:** Dr Natasha Lovell

Members with voting rights will be sent a survey to ratify the 2023 accounts.

06/24 **Committees** (Dr Sarah Cox)

All demitting Board/Committee members were thanked for their hard work and commitment by Dr Sarah Cox.

07/24 **Welcoming New Committees** (Dr Sarah Cox)

Dr Natasha Lovell has joined the APM Board.

**Proposer:** Dr Feargal Twomey

**Seconder:** Dr Natasha Wiggins

Dr Sarah Cox thanked and welcomed all new committee members. The APM are very grateful to all individuals for stepping forward.

08/24 **Opportunities to get more involved in the APM** (Dr Sarah Cox)

- There are frequently vacancies within APM Committees and SIFs
- Members are encouraged to respond to consultations when these are sent
- Invited Reviews – The APM are looking to gather a bank of individuals to take part in reviews run by the RCP for Trusts around the UK. These invited reviews are usually requested after an issue is noted at Trust level and are a way of getting expert external review of a service or situation. Please email Georgina on [office@compleat-online.co.uk](mailto:office@compleat-online.co.uk) if you are interested.

- Regional Specialty Advisors – Responsible for looking at new consultant job descriptions and looking at application for fellowships for RCP. There are current vacancies for Peninsula and East Midlands North. If you would like to apply, please email Georgina on [office@compleat-online.co.uk](mailto:office@compleat-online.co.uk).
- Medical Care Driving Change (MCDC) – If you have an initiative that you would like to include in the May edition. Please send details to Georgina on [office@compleat-online.co.uk](mailto:office@compleat-online.co.uk) and these will be passed onto Rachel Davies.

Dr Sarah Cox thanked APM Officers, Board and all committee and SIF members for their commitment and work.

#### 09/24 **Questions**

Baroness Ilora Finlay – Asked for access to the APM 2019 Workforce data. Baroness Finlay also mentioned the Danish report which reads slightly different to the health and social care report.

Slides and QR codes will be available on the website after the AGM.

There has been discussions around increasing regulations for PAs. There are not that many PAs in Palliative Medicine. Dr Cox acknowledged it would be interesting to look at PAs and their experience. Feedback from members suggested a survey was a favorable route and this should include all ACPs including physios and podiatrists etc.

Dr Karon Orndel - Ethnicity data – An area the APM is developing and keen to gather thoughts from members in terms of EDI. New members are asked to complete the protected characteristics survey upon joining the Association. The APM also needs to understand how it can better look at EDI as an organisation.

Matthew Dore mentioned the Hospice UK and APM Echo.

#### 10/24 **Date of next Annual General Meeting** (Dr Sarah Cox)

The next APM AGM will take place during PCC 2025.