



A Day in the Life of the PCC Chair

It has been a privilege working with the PCC committee towards our 2024 virtual conference “World Wide Working”. When I was asked to write “a day in the life of the PCC chair” it struck me that I rarely spend an entire day doing conference work but most days involve some conference correspondence and a lot of background thinking. It’s been a busy summer balancing school holidays, my work as a Hospice palliative care doctor, conference work and still trying to practise the piano every day!

Having met with the committee in early summer to decide the theme and title of the conference, the ideas and inspiration were overwhelming. I remember sending the first group of invitations and receiving a very prompt reply from one of the plenary speakers – there’s something quite exciting about clicking on the email to see the response. There’s also a real sense of achievement as the programme starts to come together. July and August were busy months for invitations and telephone conversations with speakers. It has been fascinating to talk directly to respected specialists; a reminder that we are all working together for a unified purpose – to improve palliative care for our patients and to support each other.

One of the most enjoyable aspects in planning the conference this year has been engaging with people who are involved in palliative care globally. Several of the sessions involve two or more speakers from opposite sides of the world, comparing similarities and differences. I had a very productive meeting with a team from New Zealand late evening after work (at the beginning of their day). Of course, the time differences mean that we have had to programme carefully to enable conference sessions to be in working hours for most.

When asked if I would chair the conference, I knew it would require a lot of time, but essentially everything is backed by good teamwork and our brilliant event organisers, Kate and Becki. I’m grateful for the encouragement from the APM Specialty and Hospice Doctors committee and very glad to represent the committee in this way.

All of the speakers have inspired me with their willingness to contribute their expertise and time. We now look forward to receiving abstract submissions and awarding oral presentations. And, so, onwards to March 2024! Looking forward to “seeing” you then.