



Association for
Palliative Medicine

The Association for Palliative Medicine of Great Britain and Ireland

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 20 March 2025 | 14:35 – 15:45
Palliative Care Congress, ICC Belfast | Hall 1A

01/25 **Welcome and introduction of Lay Trustees and Lay Chair** (Dr Sarah Cox)

Dr Sarah Cox welcomed attendees to the 2025 APM AGM and attendees were asked to sign the register of attendance.

Attendees were notified that, since the meeting lacked a quorum, an email would be sent after the event to allow members to cast their votes. Sarah Cox introduced and welcomed the new Board of Trustees, Paul Perkin, Trudie Roiz de Sa and Sol Otchere. Sarah Cox thanked the APM Council and the Secretariat for their work. Paul Paes has been voted in as the next APM Vice President/President following three very strong candidates applying for the role.

Sarah Cox introduced and handed over to Paul Perkin.

Introduction from Lay Chair (Paul Perkin)

Paul Perkin was appointed as the APM Lay Chair in July 2024. Paul started his career 25 years ago in the commercial media sector and then moved into the charity sector having witnessed homelessness in London. Various roles at executive and non-executive level means Paul brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the APM.

Alongside Jane Ratford who had been seconded over from the RCP, Paul became involved in refining the APM Articles of Association and also appointing two additional lay Trustees with specific expertise. Sol works in finance within the public sector at executive level and Trudie has specific expertise in equity, diversity and inclusion. The APM wants to be more responsive to the diverse membership and to ensure everyone's needs are met.

Paul's role will be to ensure the charity complies with the rules and requirements of the charity commission and to sense check decisions and decisions at Board level to ensure they adhere to the charity commission.

PP handed over to SC

02/25 **Minutes of 2024 Annual General Meeting** (Dr Sarah Cox)

As the meeting was not quorate, this vote will be conducted post event via email.

03/25 **President's Report** (Dr Sarah Cox)

Sarah Cox encouraged members to read the AGM reports as they illustrate the breadth of work completed over the last 12 months. Engagement has been a key focus over the last two years both in terms of engaging with members, improving the two way conversation but also engaging externally. At the last AGM there was a request for a PA/ACP survey. This has been completed and the results are available within the APM bulletin. More recently there has been a member engagement survey which aims to identify what members value most. A recent Assisted Dying webinar was attended by almost 300 people.

In the last year, there has been a lot of discussion around Assisted Dying with the TIA Bill in Westminster and the McArthur Bill in Scotland. The APM has responded to many requests both internally and externally. A key issue raised from these debates is Palliative Care funding and the APM are involved in these discussions.

The Health and Social Care committee have asked to do a review of palliative care and have asked the APM for a written submission. Members were informed that they are also able to submit a written response if they wish to do so.

The APM has also engaged externally with organisations including the Royal College of Physicians, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Sue Ryder, Together for Short Lives and others.

A lot of the focus over the last two years has been around governance and thinking about the APM as an organisation. Sarah Cox thanked Paul, Sol and Trudie for volunteering their time to support the APM. The new Articles of Association were voted in by members during the special resolution meeting held in September 2024. In addition, new codes of conduct, policies and induction packs for new committee members have been developed.

FAMCARE has been running since 2013 and the APM decided it would be timely to do a 10 year review of FAMCARE which will be published in BMJSPC. The review shows high levels of satisfaction with specialist palliative care services, however, it highlights a reducing level of engagement and over the 10 years a relatively low total number of services taking part. The APM will be considering the future of FAMCARE.

Workforce continues to be a big issue and therefore, the APM will be asking for an uplift from HSC and the commission.

The APM Workforce committee has been looking at the RCP census with specific palliative care-based questions which have been passed onto members via the bulletin.

Membership for Junior doctors has been renamed to Foundation and Middle Grade Doctor membership, however, the Juniors Committee name remains the same. Sarah Cox thanked this incredibly active committee for all their work.

With a view to developing leaders, APM members have been invited to attend meetings in the hope to break down barriers and ensure there are many applicants to refill posts on APM Council in the future.

An EDI survey has been developed which new members receive upon joining and existing members at the point of renewing. Sarah Cox thanked Trudie for supporting this piece of work and expressed the importance of this survey to ensure the APM understands the make up of the membership.

The APM has been looking at ways to improve environmental sustainability as an organisation but also how it can support individual members, this has included updating the expenses policy and changes when running conferences. The APM have collaborated with the Palliative Care sustainability network who now have a presence on the APM website.

SC handed over to SK

04/25 **Vice President's Report** (Dr Suzanne Kite)

Suzanne presented on screen a variety of images representing just some of the work carried out over the last year.

The Juniors committee hosted a webinar series with hundreds of attendees, created promotional videos, published Palliative Care resources for FY1s, developed monthly newsletters and ran their annual conference.

Over the last 6 months in particular, many APM members have been active within the media which has been at a very impressive standard.

The APM launched a new website, a dynamic resource that will continue to be updated with information.

Sebastian Van der Linden and Natasha Lovell completed the Abe Guz fellowship which draws on evidence and resources around the management of breathlessness. This resource is now available for members via the website. Sebastian and Natasha were thanked for completing this piece of work.

Hospice UK project ECHO which Matthew Dore is involved in.

Helen Bonwick received an OBE in the Kings Honors for services to Palliative Medicine.

The Trainees committee also has a wide portfolio of activities and last year ran the Undergraduate Essay Prize which received an impressive 20 entries. The winning essay is being presented during day 2 at PCC.

The modules within e-ELCA have been revised and new modules have been added.

Suzanne thanked the Education committee for their wide offer.

180 members responded to the recent membership survey and over the coming weeks, the APM will analyse and present the results to the membership. Suzanne shared a preliminary overview and identified the highest priorities including, championing SPC workforce, education/professional development, engaging in national debate, modelling the future of palliative care. As part of the survey, members were asked 'Have you ever felt discriminated against?' and 11 people (6%) said yes. 7 out of the 11 related to assisted dying (5 of those in favour of a change in the law; 2 against) which the APM is taking very seriously.

The Vice President's presentation included a few quotes from the membership survey including, 'I think that the APM should have an officially neutral rather than partisan view.'

A number of webinars and workshops are taking place over the coming months and details of these were presented to members.

SK handed over to NW

05/25 **Treasurers Report** (Dr Natasha Wiggins)

As Treasurer, Natasha provided an overview of the funds held by the APM.

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

Unrestricted funds – This is more like the current account, there are no restrictions on what this can be spent on.

The APM made an intentional decision to invest money in 2024 to strengthen governance and infrastructure. The charity commission requires 6 months reserves and at the year-end the APM had 9 months.

Membership has been increasing year on year and is the main source of income for the APM, however, fees have remained the same for several years and therefore they will be reviewed in the near future. A graph illustrating the revenue and expenses generated by PCC was presented to attendees. PCC 2023 (face to face) and PCC 2024 (virtual) broke even.

The APM continue to endorse BedRace which is an educational palliative care board game, written by clinicians. The APM receives 5% of profit for each game sold.

In recent months, the APM has split reserves across two accounts to decrease the risk. The use of ethical savings account means value of 'cash' keeps up with inflation.

Looking into the future, the APM will produce a strategic financial business plan which contributes to the stability and integrity of the APM. Review of services including MunroSmith and Compleat Secretariat. The APM will also be creating handover documents, particularly for the Treasurer role. Anyone interested in the role of Treasurer, should speak to Natasha.

NW handed over to SC

Ratification of Accounts

As the meeting was not quorate, this vote will be conducted post event via email.

Ratification of New Board of Trustee members

As the meeting was not quorate, this vote will be conducted post event via email.

06/25 **Committees** (Dr Sarah Cox)

All demitting Board/Committee members were thanked for their hard work and commitment, including two Council members, Dr Feargal Twomey and Dr Benoit Ritzenthaler.

07/25 **Welcoming New Council/Committees** (Dr Sarah Cox)

Sarah Cox welcomed Fiona MacCormick as the APM Scotland representative and thanked all new committee members for stepping forward.

As the meeting was not quorate, this vote will be conducted post event via email.

08/25 **Questions**

SC opened the floor for questions from members in attendance.

A question was submitted prior to the meeting which Sarah read aloud. 'I would like to ask the question of the APM's position on assisted dying be considered, specifically to look at whether as a professional association we should have a campaigning position or be prepared to neutrally present the cross section of views of members'

Sarah Cox explained that all APM member surveys have shown that the majority of APM members oppose the legalisation of assisted dying with an important but small minority of members in favour of legalisation. Sarah Cox also mentioned how the APM have responded to media requests and also member requests, including the composition of a letter template that members could send to their MPs.

Members in attendance joined the conversation and shared their opinions and views particularly around assisted dying.

Following on from questions, Suzanne, on behalf of the Council and members thanked Sarah Cox for her work as President and also Feargal Twomey for his work as President Support.

Sarah Cox thanked the APM membership for their support and being passionate about their work and engaging with the APM.

09/25 **Date of next Annual General Meeting** (Dr Sarah Cox)

The next APM AGM will take place during PCC 2026.

All members with voting rights were sent a link to vote after the 2025 AGM.

Do you ratify the Association for Palliative Medicine 2024 AGM minutes

Proposer: Dr Ollie Minton

Seconder: Dr Derek Willis

The 2024 AGM minutes were ratified after the meeting.

Do you ratify the Association for Palliative Medicine accounts for 2024?

Proposer: Dr Stephen Higgins

Seconder: Dr Andrew Khodabukus

The 2024 accounts were ratified after the meeting.

During 2024, the APM Board of Trustees was established. Do you ratify the new Trustees?

Proposer: Dr Hannah May-Miller

Seconder: Dr Alice O'Connor

The Board of Trustees were ratified after the meeting.

During 2024, Dr Fiona MacCormick joined the APM Council (formerly Board) as an elected member. Do you ratify the new Council member?

Proposer: Dr Declan Cawley

Seconder: Dr David Weir

The new Council members were ratified after the meeting.