



Association for
Palliative Medicine

The Association for Palliative Medicine Of Great Britain and Ireland

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 16 March 2023

Pentland

Palliative Care Congress, Edinburgh International Conference Centre

01/23 Welcome from Vice President (Dr Sarah Cox)

Dr Sarah Cox welcomed members to the 2023 Annual General Meeting and introduced herself to everyone in attendance. Dr Cox explained the AGM is for APM members only and the process for voting. There were enough members in attendance with voting rights and members cast their votes by raising their hands. APM members who were unable to attend in person will receive a link to vote online.

02/23 Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting (Dr Sarah Cox)

See slides. Dr Cox presented the results from the 2022 AGM which confirmed 96% of voters ratified the 2021 accounts, 99% of voters ratified new members joining the Board and 99% of voters ratified the new Communications committee.

03/23 President's Report (Dr Feargal Twomey on behalf of Dr Amy Proffitt)

Dr Amy Proffitt was unable to attend the PCC and the AGM, therefore Dr Feargal Twomey read a report on behalf of Dr Proffitt. Dr Twomey also accepted a gift from the APM on behalf of Dr Amy Proffitt.

04 /23 APM Officers (Dr Sarah Cox)

See slides. SC acknowledged and thanked the Officers for their commitment and hard work. Dr Amy Proffitt and Dr Kirsten Baron will be stepping down from the Board.

05/23 Vice President's Report (Dr Sarah Cox)

Dr Cox spoke about the highlights from the last year. At present, workforce is the biggest challenge and this has been and continues to be a key areas of focus for the APM. Dr Cox acknowledged the need to value and retain staff and part of that is how SAS colleagues are valued. The SAS Professional Development document is on the APM website and Dr Cox encouraged APM members to download and read this document and think about how organisations can implement the guidance. The APM have also been speaking to the GMC about extending the CESR deadline for single accreditation. The APM covers the cost of SCE Flashcards for APM members, providing members can provide proof of exam application and proof of purchase. The Clinical Excellence Awards is now called the Clinical Impact Awards and there is new guidance on the APM website. The APM is no longer a nominating body. The APM endorsed the RCP support to the Junior Doctors strikes.

In terms of Shape of Training, there has been a recent move in England to redistribute specialist trainees to correct historical inequity in geographical distribution. This has been paused and the APM was part of this result. There will be

some movement in posts this year but the planned movement for next year won't happen. SC mentioned the importance of recruitment.

The new EDI committee will work together with the Race Equity committee who have carried out excellent work in the last year.

A new website is being developed and the new communications committee will lead this project. The communications committee will be looking at how the APM share information and resources and how the Association engage with all members.

Dr Cox mentioned current committee vacancies and also two vacant regional specialty advisor posts in Oxford and Peninsula. Dr Cox encouraged APM members to spread the message and sign up for these two very important roles.

The APM have been involved in a number of consultations in the last year and the Association is very grateful for information and support from members. The Assisted Dying consultation is currently with the select committee so cannot be made public but once approved this will be available via the APM website.

SC handed over to NW

06/23 **Treasurers Report** (Dr Natasha Wiggins)

Dr Wiggins outlined the restricted and un-restricted funds. You cannot choose what the restricted funds (e-ELCA, Abe Guz) are spent on whereas you can choose the unrestricted. The APM financial year runs from 1 December – 30 November. At the beginning of the year, the APM started at just under £346,000 and at the end of the year there was £357,000.

The Charities Commission requires 6 months of running costs available, last year expenditure was £196,241 and looking at the unrestricted funds it is clear the APM is financially stable.

The work put in by the team, the broadening of membership categories and the addition of PCF access has resulted in continued membership growth over the years. Last year, the Junior Doctor fee increased by £10 and looking at uptake this has not had a negative impact on the Junior Doctor membership.

PCC 2022 made a financial loss but face to face opportunities reflect different learning styles, the conference is not just about money as it reminded people they are part of a community.

Dr Wiggins outlined plans for the future, membership fees will not increase, an evaluation of what members really think about the PCF member benefit, develop and launch the new website, collate all breathless resources using the Abe Guz funds, maximise cost effectiveness (support online meetings, reviewing processes and consider accounts).

In summary, membership uptake is increasing and we hope this will continue, an ongoing review of processes to ensure cost effectiveness and consistent incomes and lastly, the organisation is financially secure with sufficient reserves.

Dr Wiggins encouraged members to share their thoughts and suggestions.

Proposer Dr Benoit Ritzenthaler

Seconder: Dr Suzanne Kite

The 2022 accounts were ratified during the meeting.

07/22 **Committees** (Dr Sarah Cox)

Dr Cox acknowledged and thanked all demitting committee members and Board members.

APM Board

Dr Amy Proffitt

Professor Derek Willis

Dr Kirsten Baron

Dr Ian Warwick

Dr Iain Lawrie

Trainees Committee

Dr Jasmine Lee

Dr Simon Etkind

Dr Daniel Soutar

Dr Maimoona Ali

Dr Hannah Rose

Clinical Quality Committee

Dr Jane Whitehurst

Dr Andrew Fletcher

SAS & Hospice Doctors

Dr Andrea Graham

Education and Training

Dr Paul Paes

Race Equity

Nadia Khan

APM members applauded in recognition of all demitting committee/Board members

APM Board (Dr Sarah Cox)

Dr Cox welcomed new Board members. Dr Suzanne Kite is joining the APM Board as Vice President and Dr Matthew Doré as Honorary Secretary as well as the Northern Ireland Rep.

Dr Bernadette Brady has joined the APM Board as Ireland Rep, Dr Natasha Wiggins as Treasurer and Dr Feargal Twomey as President Support.

Proposer: Dr David Brooks

Seconder: Dr Samantha Lund

The new Board members were ratified during the meeting.

Trainees Committee

Dr Lucy Ison (Chair)

Dr Emma McDonald

Dr Anna Grundy

Dr Sarah Foot

Dr Heledd Lewis

SAS & Hospice Doctors Committee

Dr Mary Ann Mahadevan

Race Equity

Dr Karon Orndel

Education and Training

Dr Suzie Gillon (Chair)

Clinical Quality Committee

Dr Despoina Elvira-Karakitsiou

APM members applauded all new committee/Board members

08/23 Welcoming New Committees (Dr Sarah Cox)

The Race Equity committee was formed last year and has already carried out some important work focusing on racism, particularly in palliative medicine amongst staff. The survey results will be published later this year.

Alongside the Race Equity committee, the APM have set up an EDI committee (Equality Diversity Inclusion) and a Workforce committee which are essential in supporting some of the work that is going on nationally.

Proposer: Dr Bernadette Brady

Seconder: Dr Sarah Hanrott

The new committees were ratified during the meeting.

09/23 Questions

Dr David Brooks acknowledged it is almost 10 years since the APM introduced APM Juniors and asked how successful the pipeline is from Medical Student to Juniors to Trainees. An exact number couldn't be given during the AGM but Dr Cox mentioned the energy and activity she has seen over the last few years which is astonishing.

Dr Francis Jasiewicz (Juniors committee, Conference coordinator) volunteered to provide additional information. Through educational events, the juniors committee try to open up interest and there has been a lot of positive feedback.

After events, the Juniors committee ask delegates to complete a survey and this includes questions similar to 'would you now be considering a career in palliative medicine?' Unfortunately, the survey response rate isn't overly high but the committee has access to this data and it can be shared.

Dr Dominic Whitehouse wasn't aware of the Juniors committee within the APM and suggested additional publicity. Dr Cox acknowledged Dr Whitehouse's point and informed members in attendance that the new communications committee will be making sure the website is much easier to navigate and information is a lot clearer as well as communication with the membership in a much broader sense.

Dr Mary Miller mentioned the newly developed Postgraduate SIF, developed by the Education and Training committee with the support of the Undergraduate SIF. Mary thanked Angus Grant and the team for their work, for example running the recent webinars. The number of people entering the specialty can be measured but Dr Miller also mentioned data that is more difficult to capture for example the learning that is spilling out into other specialties for example how to care for patients better.

Dr Benoit Ritzenhaller – What should be the task of the Workforce committee to serve the APM? Dr Ritzenhaller also asked the audience to think about what direction they think the Workforce committee should take.

Dr Cox identified the focus of the APM used to be on surveys and numbers, however, the feeling now is that there are sources of data elsewhere. Dr Cox suggested other areas of work, for example, supporting Polly Edmonds and the SAC, thinking alongside the GMC, identifying how the APM can support SAS doctors and prevent burnout as well as looking at how the APM support doctors who have trained abroad and want to work in the UK.

Dr Ebum Abarshi mentioned the need to support Juniors with portfolio needs, for example abstracts and prizes.

Dr Fiona Rawlinson noted that all members are ambassadors for the specialty/discipline. Dr Rawlinson also mentioned flexibility of the workforce. Colleagues may not be able to return to the same job following a particular life event and therefore the need to adapt to support colleagues.

Dr Idris Baker mentioned the value of influencing and supporting individuals in their early career. Design the way careers evolve and reduce barriers.

Dr Karon Ornel mentioned the most recent workforce data that identifies the palliative medicine workforce as being mainly white British and the need to address this and ask why? What would attract people to a career in palliative medicine? Dr Cox mentioned a recent discussion with Dr Jamilla Hussain (Chair of the Race Equity committee) and the initial steps the Association will be taking to address these important questions.

Professor Derek Willis thanked Dr Sarah Cox for her time as Vice President and wished Dr Cox all the best in her role as APM President.

10/23 **Date of next Annual General Meeting** (Dr Sarah Cox)

The next APM AGM will take place during the next PCC (virtual) 21 – 22 March 2024.