

## **Medical Director's Report**

Good evening, everyone.

Looking back over reports from the last few AGMs and the spectre of covid had loomed large. While this has been less of a clinical issue over the last year it's probably fair to say that General Practice is still hugely affected by its fallout, with increased demand, and trying to deal with problems elsewhere in the system. As Iain has suggested, it's not been an easy year.

And for that reason I would like to hugely thank the committee members for all their efforts over the past year; their engagement, opinions, and dedication in representing the profession is great to see, especially when it makes us in the office challenge some of our ideas.

The LMC has said goodbye to a number of members of the committee in this year, Hamish Reid, Drummond Begg, Amy Small, Catherine Ainscoe, Susannah Scarlet, Kerri Greene, Morgan Flynn, Ros Wight, Jon Turvill and, just tonight, Elaine Duncan.

An impressive list which includes many of the 'big names' in Lothian General Practice who have advocated and fought for our profession over many years. Between them they contributed a vast amount to the committee and to General Practice. I would like to thank them all; we are indebted to them for all their dedication and wisdom over the years and wish them well with all future endeavours.

Despite the substantial list of those leaving the committee, we have been fortunate in those who have joined; Hazel Knox in North West Edinburgh, Jane Marshall as the new Edinburgh HSCP rep, John Magill and Elena Delvescovo job-sharing the Sessional GP rep role, Rebecca Green as the new CD in Midlothian HSCP, Fiona Ford as the Retainer representative. Clem Johns has returned as the NW Edinburgh rep, Maria Marecka as the GP trainee rep and AJ Kelly as a new West Lothian rep. We are very grateful for all their efforts and the fresh perspective they bring to the committee.

We have a number of colleagues who have also changed roles, Stuart Blake remains Area Medical Committee Chair, but has also been elected as a NE Edinburgh Rep (where Laura Tweedie was also re-elected). And John Hardman has taken on the clinical leadership in East Lothian HSCP.

The big change in the office has been Dr Jenny English deciding to step down as one of the Medical Directors. I've been blessed to have been the beneficiary of much of her knowledge and to witness the passionate way she has repeatedly defended and advocated for General Practice over the couple of years we worked together. Clearly 2 years of working with me was quite enough for anyone and I certainly can't begrudge her having a bit of a break. However I'd like to thank her publically for everything she has done and continues to do to support General Practice and the LMC, as well as all the help she has given me. I'm delighted that she continues to represent Midlothian GPs both on the committee and the Executive, as well as performing a crucial role as the LMC rep on the GP Support and Advisory Group.

Our sadness at losing Jenny however has been substantially eased by the appointment of Dr Andrea Lomas in her place. Annie brings an infectious enthusiasm which is the perfect balance to my dourness, her commitment to quality, interface issues and the future of General Practice is inspiring. Many of you will have seen her Channel 4 News interview, and how that helped shape coverage of the problems facing the profession. We're very lucky to have her on board.

Lothian's voice has been well heard during the last year. We were well represented at both the UK and Scottish LMC conferences with excellent speeches to a number of motions. It was clear that the pool of talent on the committee runs deep.

We have also been well represented on SGPC with the Lothian bench contributing significantly to debates. Clearly the last year has not been an easy one for relationships between SGPC and the Government with progress on the contract stalling and the reversal of promised funding, however I can assure you that Lothian voices have tried to influence the BMA's thinking to the best of our ability. We even this year had 2 of our reps, Dr Iain Morrison and Dr Jenny English elected in competitive votes to SGPC's executive.

I am now in my third year as one of the medical directors at the LMC and remain really impressed by how well the office works as a team, the leadership shown by Iain, and how Nicola, our business co-ordinator organises so much of our work and is such a vital communication link with practices.

Nicola has also taken on a huge role in the set-up of the General Practice Alert System, or GPAS. Lothian was the first LMC in Scotland to launch this last year, and has since been followed by many others. It has helped to quantify the amount of work being done in General Practice as well as the pressures our system is under, and the number of patients this affects. We are hugely grateful to practices for continuing to submit their weekly returns which has enabled us to use the data in discussions within NHS Lothian, which perhaps at times can focus on the pressures in other parts of the system more rich in data. Our colleagues in the Primary Care office now share the top line information with Scottish Government. While we cannot pretend that in the first few months it has brought substantial new investment to General Practice, I do believe that providing robust data on a regular basis, demonstrating the huge value we bring, has to be part of moving the dial in discussions regarding priorities for the NHS.

Lothian LMC remains committed to representing every GP practice and General Practitioner who works in Lothian, be they sessional, partner, retainer or working in out of hours, and we are delighted to have all these voices on committee. We are well aware of the responsibility this representation brings and are always happy to be contacted by any practice or individual if they think we can be of help.

Dr Neil MacRitchie, Medical Director, Lothian LMC.

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