

Medical Director's Report

Good evening, everyone.

Before writing this report, I looked back on the reports presented to the last couple of AGMs. In 2020 the corona virus was not even mentioned, then in 2021 it was clearly dominating everything we did. As Iain has mentioned we are now in a position where although covid still hangs over so many people, and how our practices operate, we are hopefully again able to turn our collective attentions to the myriad of other challenges facing the profession.

I would like to 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 3 members of the committee in this year, Morgan Flynn, Carl Bicker and Robin Balfour. Between them they contributed a vast amount to the committee and the profession. 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. Laura Montgomery has stepped down as the retainer representative but remains on the committee in another role.

The committee has been joined by Shelagh Stewart in East Lothian, and Catherine Ainscoe as the new retainer representative. Susannah Scarlett has also joined to cover an absence. We are very grateful for all their efforts and the fresh perspective they bring to the committee.

Iain has mentioned in his report the importance of the contract and investment in General Practice, and it is important that our voice is heard nationally as well as in local forums.

Several have contributed to the media coverage of General Practice, and I would especially mention Iain Morrison and Drummond Begg. Annie Lomas has joined our reps on SGPC and immediately has made an impact, and I was delighted to see how many representatives from Lothian contributed to both the UK and Scottish LMC conferences over the last year, including on matters such as the contract, professionalism, appraisal, enhanced services, interface issues and inequalities. We had many excellent contributions, and Lothian's voice was certainly heard loudly. We look forward to such events hopefully returning to being held in person this year

I am now in my second year as one of the medical directors at the LMC and am blessed to be able to work with such a team. I previously held a similar role in another LMC, but I have been really impressed by how well the office works as a team, the leadership shown by Iain and Jenny, the organisational superstar that is Nicola, our business co-ordinator. And of course, their tolerance of me as the new boy.

Lothian LMC remains committed to representing every GP practice and General Practitioner who works in Lothian, be they sessional, partner, retainer or working in the 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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