

Lothian LMC AGM, Monday 15th March 2021

Medical Director's Report

In writing this report, I like Iain, have had to reflect on the 12 months since Lothian LMC last held our AGM. It seems incredible now, but last March, we did not even mention the corona virus at this equivalent meeting and in the Office, we believed that our major challenge in 2020 would be our ongoing commitment to implementation of the 2018 GP contract. However, what then seemed unimaginable has since come to pass and as Iain has said so eloquently, we have now lived and worked through a year which will undoubtedly have changed us all personally and professionally.

I also must give thanks to Drummond, who as Chair of our LMC for much of this period, was an inspirational figurehead. We are indebted to him for the leadership he showed, and the actions that flowed from his leadership. Within the Office, we did our utmost to try and convince Drummond not to stand down as Chair last Autumn, whilst fully understanding his reasons for doing so. What is absolutely certain is that all those of us lucky enough to work closely with Drummond, have gained immensely from his wisdom and his example. Our loss is definitely someone else's gain.

Stepping into Drummond's shoes as Chair of the LMC, in the middle of a pandemic and three quarters of the way through the initial time frame laid out for implementation of the new GP contract was always going to be a challenge. Lothian LMC is extremely fortunate that Iain was prepared to step up and take on this role.

We have also been extremely fortunate in being able to welcome Neil MacRitchie as a new Medical Director. Neil brought with him huge amounts of experience from his role leading Grampian LMC, and Lothian LMC are now benefitting enormously not only from his knowledge but also his calm, thoughtful and measured contributions to our Office work.

I would also like to thank Nicola, our business co-ordinator who has an invaluable role in the workings of the Office. It has been, and continues to be a pleasure and an honour to work with such great colleagues.

There have been a few changes in the wider committee this year. Elizabeth Murray stood down from her NW Edinburgh seat after many years representing her constituents. Agata Dunsmore stepped down from the retainer seat and Kim Rollinson stepped down from her role representing our LASGP and sessional colleagues. I would like to personally thank Elizabeth, Agata and Kim for all the work they did as part of the LMC, and wish them all luck in their future endeavours.

Amy Small stepped down as an East Lothian representative but we are delighted that Amy remains on the committee as the new LASGP/sessional representative. The new members who have joined this year are Kath Robertson for SW Edinburgh, Laura Montgomery as retainer representative, Clementine Johns for NW Edinburgh and John Hardman for East Lothian. Jane Sweeney was appointed as the LUCS representative while Kate Hill has been on maternity leave.

Lothian LMC remains committed to representing every GP who works in Lothian. We thus continue to be proud that we have representatives from LUCS, sessional GPs and our retainer colleagues on the committee. We are also proud that as of this year every single one of the 120 practices in Lothian is a member of our LMC. With this pride though, comes responsibility and we remain, as always here to be contacted by any individual or practice who needs our help.

Dr Jenny English, Medical Director Lothian LMC.