

British Orthopaedic Association
Patient Liaison Group Annual Report 2015

In 2015 the Patient Liaison Group met regularly and provided support and guidance to the British Orthopaedic Association. We thank Colin Howie, BOA President for the early part of 2015, and Tim Wilton, BOA President for the later part of 2015 for their very positive and productive support of our work as patient champions.

Meetings: The British Orthopaedic Association Patient Liaison Group formally met 3 times in 2015 with a sub-group attending and participating in many sessions at the annual Congress in Liverpool. Copies of all meeting minutes are held in the BOA office.

Membership: Recruitment was a major challenge in 2015. Delays in processing applications as well as limits on advertising budget had significant impact on group activities. Moving forward, plans are to streamline the interviewing process for all lay members and use electronic formats such as Skype when possible.

As requested by our clinical members, the BOA Team agreed to produce a recruitment poster to be posted in their clinics. Copies will also be available to Council.

Derek Twigg stepped down as an attending member but continues to contribute in a corresponding role. Nick Welch and Jon Mutimer continue to provide support in corresponding roles as well.

The PLG welcomed two new attending clinical members – Nilesh Makwana and Neil Davies. Strengthening our ties to training and education, Rupert Wharton will represent BOTA on the PLG.

Publications: The PLG was pleased to present a patient's perspective on the Consultant Outcomes Publication Manual for National Clinical Audits.

New publications included Communication and Liaison with Major Trauma Patients and Next of Kin and Day Case Elective Major Joint Replacement – a step too far? We continue to work on guidance for patients who may want to address issues with their care entitled When things don't go well – managing your concerns.

Bone and Joint Decade: The PLG's former lay chair Nick Welch was appointed as an International Ambassador of the Global Alliance for Musculoskeletal Health of the Bone and Joint Decade this year. His summary of this role and the goals of the organisation can be found in the PLG section of the BOA website.

Council: The lay-chair continues to attend Council meetings as an ex-officio member, and along with the vice-chair they managed to attend all the Council meetings in 2015. The PLG summary of activity presented to each Council meeting is on file.

PPC: The PLG thanks Derek Twigg for his support as our representative at PPC meetings. Kate Roxburgh will now fulfil this role.

BOA Congress 2015: The PLG continued to play an active part at the annual Congress. Both lay and clinical members presented on major panels:

- Navigating the NHS – Nileshe Makwana and Judith Fitch
- Managing Data Responsibly – Judith Fitch
- Mapping the way forward toward T&O Commissioning – Josephine Fox
- T&O Surgery after the General Election – Phil Mitchell and Weng Ang

In addition we hosted our own stand-alone session on “Toward the Perfect Consultation”. Topics discussed were shared decision-making, consultation structure, methods of patient communication, and patient consent.

We look forward to playing an active role at this event in 2016.

Journal of Trauma and Orthopaedics: The Chair was invited to write and comment on several articles in this publication. Copies are on file and appear in our section of the BOA website.

Quality Outcomes Committee: Although Pida Ripley no longer represents us at these meetings the PLG regularly provides input to the group. Early in 2015 we provided input on what data a patient might want to see on proposed shoulder surgery dashboards. We have also been invited to comment on a bone and joint infection registry.

GIRFT: The Royal College of Surgeons and University College London (UCL) asked for two representatives from the PLG to sit on a group that will be evaluating the impact of GIRFT. This will involve providing advice on certain aspects of GIRFT from time to time as well as joining an assessment panel that the UCL. Kate Roxburgh and Richard Palmer have kindly agreed to represent us.

Commissioning Guidance Review: Several members of the PLG have agreed to sit on Guideline Development Groups to review the BOA’s Commissioning Guides for painful knees, painful hips and painful tingling fingers.

Our connections: Despite limited attending members, the PLG continues to maintain connections with several key stakeholder groups. It is hoped that new recruits will assist us in strengthening and further building our relationships in 2016.

Richard Palmer continues to liaise with ARMA.

Kate Roxburgh continues to act on our behalf with NICE.

Nick Welsh continues as a lay representative on the NHS England Major Trauma Reference Group

Finally, we thank Mike Kimmons and everyone in the BOA Team for their continued support.

This Annual Report has been produced for and on behalf of the BOA Patient Liaison Group by:



Judith Fitch

Lay Chair

January 2016