

British Orthopaedic Association
Patient Liaison Group Annual Report 2016

In 2016 the Patient Liaison Group met regularly and provided support and guidance to the British Orthopaedic Association. We thank Immediate Past President Tim Wilton and Ian Winson, BOA President for their continued support of our role within the organisation.

Meetings: The British Orthopaedic Association Patient Liaison Group formally met 3 times in 2016. In addition Richard Palmer, Judith Fitch, Nick Welch and Fiona Walmsley-Collins attended the annual Congress in Belfast supported by clinical members Phil Mitchell, Nilesh Makwana and Neil Davies. Copies of all meeting minutes are held in the BOA office.

Membership: Recruitment continued to be a significant focus for the PLG in 2016. Following telephone interviews Fiona Walmsley-Collins and Linda Ward joined as attending lay members. Corresponding members Steve Roger, Robert Ubsdell and Helen Wightman left the group allowing Josephine Fox, Weng Ang and Richard Palmer to transition to corresponding roles.

Rupert Wharton will be replaced by Helen Vint as our PLG BOTA representative.

A PLG recruitment poster was distributed at Council in April. Members were asked to display this in their clinics and distribute it to their clinical colleagues.

Publications: Thanks to the efforts of the group, all existing papers in the Patient Information section of our website were reviewed and clinically approved. The group decided that the paper on guidance on complaints about care was not appropriate for our webpages. Instead we will signpost links to general guidance “if things don’t go right”.

We continue our discussion with the Professional Practice Committee (PPC) on our paper *Day Case Elective Major Joint Replacement – a step too far?*

We will continue to review and update content including the documents in the Expectations area.

Quality Outcomes/Trauma & Orthopaedic Registries Unifying Structure (TORUS): The group provided input on a bone and joint infection registry to James Masters (as part of the Quality Outcomes Project). We raised concerns about increasing the data entry burden on staff and ensuring any data was jargon free and “patient friendly”. Linda Ward will be our representative on TORUS.

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 2016. The PLG summary of activity presented to each Council meeting is on file.

The group provided input to Council around consent and the BMJ article *Who Will Operate on You?*, highlighting the need for informed consent and patient knowledge of changes to a procedure or a member of staff performing a procedure, prior to undergoing that procedure.

BOTA: The PLG provided our input on consent and the patient/consultant discussion of risks to BOTA. We continue to monitor the issue of informed consent and welcome further discussions with our clinical colleagues.

In November the group was asked to review and support the CutItOut! Strategy for addressing bullying and harassment in Trauma and Orthopaedics Surgery. As patient representatives, the BOA PLG fully supports this campaign. We look forward to following the progress of this initiative.

PPC: Due to work commitments Kate Roxburgh stepped down as our PPC representative. Fiona Walmsley-Collins will represent the PLG going forward.

BOA Congress 2016: The PLG continued to play an active part at the annual Congress. A special thanks goes to Richard Palmer for presenting *GIRFT – a Patient's Perspective* during our standalone session. Judith Fitch also presented at the Duty of Candour session, as did Nick Welch in the ARMA session.

Commissioning Guidance Review: Several members of the PLG continue to provide input in Guideline Development Groups to review the BOA's Commissioning Guides.

BOA Trauma Group: The PLG was asked to review 2 patient leaflets and provide input to the BOA Trauma Group. Feedback was provided during our October meeting.

Our connections:

- Kate Roxburgh continues to act as our liaison with NICE.
- Nick Welch is our lay representative on the NHS England Major Trauma Reference Group.
- Several of our lay members are patient stakeholders in clinical research projects and trials.

We will continue to accept invitations to participate in projects as resources allow.

The Chair thanks Phil Mitchell for his support as his term as Vice Chair ends and we welcome Richard Parkinson to the committee.

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

Dates for 2017 PLG meetings:

- Thursday 23 February
- Thursday 29 June
- Thursday 19 October
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This Annual Report has been produced for and on behalf of the BOA Patient Liaison Group by:



Judith Fitch
Lay Chair
January 2017