

British Orthopaedic Association
Patient Liaison Group Annual Report 2017

In 2017 the Patient Liaison Group met regularly and provided support and guidance to the British Orthopaedic Association. We thank Immediate Past President Ian Winson and BOA President Ananda Nanu for their continued support of our role within the organisation.

Meetings: The British Orthopaedic Association Patient Liaison Group formally met 3 times in 2017. Judith Fitch, Nick Welch, Linda Ward and Liz Carroll attended the annual Congress in Liverpool supported by clinical members Nilesch Makwana, Neil Davies and Richard Parkinson. Copies of all meeting minutes are available in the BOA office.

Membership: As has been the case for several years, recruitment was a major challenge in 2017. Following a telephone interview Liz Carroll joined as an attending lay member. Due to ill health corresponding member Richard Palmer left the group.

During a discussion at the December 2017 Council meeting it was agreed that budget for advertising recruitment to the PLG would be allocated. The incoming Chair will follow up with Liz Fry on this.

Zubair Saeed will replace Helen Vint as our PLG BOTA representative.

Publications: Josephine Fox provided extensive help in reviewing a large number of the papers currently published on the BOA website. All documents on the site are now up to date.

After months of discussion, our paper on Day Case Elective Major Joint Replacement – a step too far? was approved and published.

The PLG also reviewed latest T&O curriculum documentation.

Quality Outcomes/TORUS: The PLG continues to provide representation on TORUS and receive regular updates at our meetings.

Council: The lay-chair continues to attend Council meetings as an ex-officio member and managed to attend all the Council meetings in 2017. The PLG summary of activity presented to each Council meeting is on file in the BOA office.

PPC: Fiona Walmsley-Collins continues to represent the PLG at PPC meetings. The PPC asked the group to play a part in future Elective Care Reviews. There were lengthy discussions on training that might be needed as well as whether PLG members should be compensated for their time at these reviews. The incoming Chair will take these issues forward.

Transition – PLG to Patient Panel: During 2017 there were on-going discussions regarding the next steps for the PLG. The BOA proposed transitioning the group to a Patient Panel. Lay representatives would represent patients on all BOA profession practice and training and education committees. There are concerns about the impact of this work on the already stretched lay membership. The group was also concerned that limiting the number of meetings to 2 per year would not be productive.

The PLG agreed to the transition in principal. However due to the extensive turnover of staff within the BOA organisation and the fact that the incoming Chair would not have the benefit of a Vice Chair with experience in the group, Council was asked to delay this change until January 2019.

BOA Congress 2017: The PLG continued to play an active part at the annual Congress. A special thanks goes to Linda Ward and Liz Carroll for presenting during our stand-alone session on Value Based Commissioning and the roadblocks to patient care.

Feedback from this Congress included:

- PLG should have a greater voice and more interaction at Congress 2018
- The BOA team and the PLG plan their Congress activity together to ensure wider representation and visibility
- PLG members would like to be entitled to free registration similar to BOA members
- A patient representative should participate on every panel
- A patient representative should be available at the BOA stand to increase PLG visibility

Rationing of Care: The PLG continues to highlight and have concern about rationing of patient care. In many cases patients are being denied “elective” surgery due to issues such as weight. However these patients are not offered any guidance or follow-up care on weight loss. We strongly support any BOA attempts to control this trend.

Our connections:

- Kate Roxburgh continues to act as our liaison with NICE.
- Pida Ripley represents us on the Revision of the Blue Book on Distal Radial fractures of the wrist (DRFS)
- 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 including the OPAL (Occupational advice for Patient undergoing Arthroplasty of the Lower limb) study. We will continue to accept invitations to participate in projects as resources allow.

Elections 2017: During our October meeting Linda Ward was unanimously elected as the new Chair. She will begin her term of office 1 January 2018. The Chair wishes Linda all the best in her new role.

Finally, as my term as Chair ends I would like to thank Council for their continued support during my term of office. I hope my work helped to raise the visibility of the BOA PLG. I look forward to supporting the PLG as a corresponding member.

As always, we thank everyone in the BOA Team for their continued support.

Dates for 2018 PLG meetings will be published at a later date by the new Chair.

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



Judith Fitch
Outgoing Lay Chair
January 2018