

**British Orthopaedic Association**  
**Patient Liaison Group Annual Report 2014**

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In 2014 the Patient Liaison Group met regularly, and offered support and feedback to the British Orthopaedic Association (BOA). It was delighted to have a close and productive relationship with Professor T Briggs – the BOA President for the first part of 2014 and Professor Colin Howie in the latter part of the year.

2014 was a special year as the PLG celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. To mark the occasion Mr N Welch (Lay Chair) wrote a brief history of the PLG. It is available on line at the PLG's web pages. We held a celebratory meeting in July. All the members and corresponding members came along, except those who were unable because of recent orthopaedic procedures. We were honoured that Professor Tim Briggs joined us and addressed the meeting.

We congratulate Miss Clare Marx – a Past Chair of the PLG – on her election as President of the Royal College of Surgeons. The PLG was able to comment on her debate about waiting times, for which it received a gracious thank you.

**Meetings**

The Patient Liaison Group has met 3 times between January and December 2014. Copies of the minutes for each meeting are held in the office. With so many members present in July it was an ideal opportunity to elect Mr Welch's successor: Ms Judith Fitch will take office in January 2015 for three years.

**Membership**

This is the final year of three under the chairmanship of Mr N Welch (lay member) and Mr D McBride (vice chair and clinical member).

Mr Terry Garrett and Mrs Ruth Reavley retired from the Group in 2014. Mr Keith Thames had to step down for personal reasons and Ms Pippa Anderson resigned, fearing a conflict of interest with her new assignment with the Welsh Assembly. Ms Margaret Hughes opted to become a Corresponding Member for personal reasons.

Mr Weng Ang accepted the invitation to join the attending members to replace Mr Thames. Ms Pida Ripley agreed to step in to replace Mr Welch when he retires to the Corresponding Group.

Ms Jennifer Buchanan and Mr Robert Ubsdell were invited to join the Group as Corresponding members, and accepted. Ms Buchanan subsequently decided the PLG was not for her.

Mrs Helen Wightman accepted a Corresponding Member role with a special remit to focus on the Scottish perspective. It is hoped she will take an active role in Scotland and feed back information and insight into the differences between the two NHS systems. Mr Mark Blyth has already been in touch with her about attending some local meetings as a lay representative.

Mr Phil Mitchell FRCS took up his role as Vice-chair Elect in February, shadowing Mr McBride. This has put the PLG in a strong position – as Mr Mitchell has now had a year's experience, which will help Ms Fitch when she assumes responsibility in January 2015.

Following the loss of Ms Anderson and Mrs Reavey the Group is actively looking for a member from Wales, as well as someone with knowledge of Paediatric Care to bring their specialist knowledge to bear. Mr Welch has offered a place on the PLG Corresponding Group to a lay member of the Patient Group being considered by our Clinical Colleagues in Belfast. It is hoped the Northern Ireland Group will be extant in time for the 2016 BOA Congress there.

Recruiting lay members is an on-going task, and the PLG will need to seek fresh talent during 2015: a process initiated in November with the help of Mr Hunt. It is anticipated that an advertisement will be placed in the Metro in early January 2015.

### **Publications**

The PLG now has a number papers posted on our web page.

In 2014 the PLG rationalised several papers relating to admission and discharge issues into one definitive paper. All the papers are under constant review to ensure they are current and relevant to current practice.

Six of the exiting papers were modified in 2014 to fulfil this obligation.

There were two new papers published: one outlining the information a patient should know prior to the day of their operation. The second is a paper looking at interpreting the confusing data online about patient outcomes. Also the Chair modified a paper he has written for NHS England outlining the significance of the development of Major Trauma Centres, which after due discussion was accepted by the BOA for uploading to the PLG's web page.

The PLG has identified a couple of issues to follow up during 2015:

- The concern that elective patients are being compromised at hospitals that run a major trauma centre
- That the PLG should take an interest in disaffected patients and their options. Mr Ang is looking into this with the assistance of Mr Hunt.

### **Web site**

The BOA re-designed their web site and the PLG's pages were also updated.

The PLG would like to thank especially Ms Holly Weldin who took on the responsibility of keeping the PLG's pages up to date.

The "Contact us" is rarely used, but the Chair is grateful to his colleagues and the Support Team for their help when necessary.

### **Council**

The Lay-chair has continued to attend Council as an ex-officio member, and along with the vice-chair they have managed to attend all the Council meetings in 2014.

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

### **Professional Practice Committee**

Mr D Twigg continued to attend the meetings in 2014. He has kept his colleagues briefed on issues raised at the meetings, as appropriate.

### **BOA Congress 2014**

Ms Judith Fitch, Mr Weng Ang, Mr Bob Smith, Miss Jo Fox as well as Mr Don McBride and Mr Phil Mitchell contributed to various sessions at the congress as well as presenting a stand-alone session. As well as having speakers in the sessions the PLG ran a stand-alone session.

For this exercise the office devised a PLG/BOA 'corporate' slide. It is anticipated all future presentations will use this format.

Feedback has been wholeheartedly positive.

We very much appreciate being invited to participate and look forward to future collaborations.

At the Decembers Council meeting it was established that the PLG will have an active role in the 2015 Congress. The details will be discussed at the next PLG meeting.

### **Joint Action**

Ms Lauren Rich has continued to support the PLG and has invited us to write briefly in the Joint Action Newsletter.

### **Journal of Trauma and Orthopaedics.**

The Chair was invited to write several articles for this journal expressing the patient perspective. He would like to thank Ms Rich and Mr C Howie for their editorial support. Copies of the article are on file at the office. Copies of all the PLG's articles published in the JTO (and in its predecessor BON) are available on the PLG's web pages.

### **The Quality Outcomes Committee**

Ms Julia Trusler invited the PLG to nominate a member to join this group, which meets 3 times a year. Ms Pida Ripley has volunteered.

### **Beyond Compliance**

Following an excellent briefing by Mr Keith Tucker the Group has expressed in interest in further supporting the initiative. With this in mind it will liaise with Mr Tucker to establish how best it can help.

### **Inter-reaction with other Bodies:**

### **ARMA**

Mr R Palmer has continued as the link on our behalf, although there has been comparatively little interaction. Mr Kimmons has agreed to take Mr Palmer to his next meeting at ARMA. At the last meeting of the year we discussed further PLG member participation at ARMA meetings. It was agreed that this would be at the discretion of the CEO and his Deputy. Mr Palmer and Ms Ridley agree to be on standby.

### **Arthritis Care**

Following a particularly interesting discussion with Ms Judi Rhys the CEO at Arthritis Care the PLG agreed to build a closer relationship with this organisation. It is now left with the incoming officers to develop this theme during 2015.

### **RCS PLG**

Interaction with the RCS PLG has been developing steadily. There has been some very helpful support, and we have been invited to comment on several topics they have been discussing. The Chair would like to thank Ms Lindsay Mitchell of the PLG and Miss Ella Jackson from the RCS for their help. Ms Mitchell has attended several PLG meetings and following the very fallow years prior to 2011 we anticipate the continued co-operation between the two Groups. Ms Grace Gotlieb has replaced Miss Jackson at the RCS and we trust the channels of communication we have established during 2013/14 are maintained.

### **NICE**

Mrs Kate Roxburgh continues to be the gatekeeper for our NICE Stakeholdership, and as well as circulating the papers for consultation also collates any responses.

Mr Welch, as a co-signatory of the 2010 VTE Guidelines responded to a NICE survey about updating these guidelines. Subsequently Mr Welch was informed by NICE that they will review the guidelines in 2016: he passed this information on to the BOA.

More recently the PLG has responded to the Osteoarthritis consultation; but we felt it inappropriate for the lay members to comment on the Copal G+C evaluation. We also commented on the consultation on Insertion of an annular disc implant at lumbar discectomy. Finally the PLG commented on the Falls Consultation.

### **NHS England**

Mr Welch, in his capacity as a lay representative on the NHS England Major Trauma Clinical Reference Group, learned that more lay stakeholders were needed and therefore registered the PLG. It is anticipated that the PLG will be able to comment on consultations based on orthopaedic issues.

The first opportunity was to comment on the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the Efficient and Effective Planned Care.

### **Summary:**

The group has been grateful for the support afforded us by Mr Mike Kimmons, and his administrative Team at the BOA. We bid Ms Judith Trusler a fond farewell and wish her well in her new role, and welcome Mr Kevin Hunt who has taken on the role of Deputy CEO. We also welcome Mr Matthew Barker, who will be helping us with our administration.

Mr Welch would like to offer Ms Fitch and Mr Mitchell every success during their three years in office, and hopes the BOA and their Council will continue to support the PLG's endeavours.

Finally, and on a personal note I want to thank all my colleagues in the PLG, on Council and in the Office, past and present, who have helped me during the past three years. I firmly believe that the PLG is a potent and vibrant body that will go from strength to strength.

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



Nick Welch  
Lay Chair (rt'd)  
January 2015