

LMC Update Email

29 June 2018

BMA Annual Representative Meeting 2018

The BMA's Annual Representative Meeting took place this week, with the general practice section debated on Tuesday and many other general practice related motions taken during the week. The Tuesday webcast, including my speech as the first item and the passed motions, is available [here](#).

A motion that backed calls for the introduction of maximum workload limits for GPs, was reported on by [The Daily Mirror](#), [The Daily Mail](#), [ITV News Online](#), [Pulse](#), [Press Association](#), The Sun, The Times, [The Daily Telegraph](#), iNews, The Daily Express, and [The BMJ](#).

I also wrote an article about the pressures GPs are working under, and what it means for the future of general practice, for [The Yorkshire Post](#). I wrote, "For far too long our service has been undervalued and taken for granted. GPs' work ethic and dedication to their patients has been exploited through a decade of underfunding and soaring workload pressure, with the assumption that the GP practice will always be there to pick up the workload that others say they cannot or will not do." I was also interviewed about this issue on the London radio station, LBC, and local radio stations including BBC Radio Wiltshire and BBC Radio Humberside. The story was also discussed on the front pages review on Sky News.

A motion condemning the Government's failure to communicate to doctors in the aftermath of the Skripal poisoning in Salisbury was widely covered in the media, but with an emphasis on an opposition to the motion from Dr Peter Holden, GPC member, who said that his colleagues worked very hard at the time and suggested that a GP should be able to close doors to the surgery to contaminated patients when there is an incident of this nature. The story was featured in The Times, The Daily Mirror, [The Daily Mail](#), [The Daily Telegraph](#), [ITV News Swindon Advertiser](#) [Shropshire Star](#)

Before the ARM, I was interviewed by Sky News about a motion which argued that the BMA should encourage the Government to consider alternative means of funding in the NHS. When debated during the ARM the motion was overwhelmingly defeated. I said: "The BMA has consistently opposed charges from the NHS and advocated for a publicly funded, free at the point of care service, that is what the NHS has been built on for the last 70 years and that's what we want to see for the next 70 years."

My interview was also widely used by local independent radio and there was further coverage in [The Daily Telegraph](#), [The Daily Mirror](#), and [The Daily Mail](#)

BMA Awards

It was good to see members of GPC and LMCs receiving awards at the ARM.

Andrew Green – The Association Medal in recognition of distinguished service to the association and contribution to medicine.

David Wrigley - The Association Medal in recognition of distinguished service to the association and contribution to medicine.

Simon Parkinson - The honour of fellowship of the association in recognition of outstanding services rendered to the association and to the profession of medicine.

Harry Yoxall - The honour of fellowship of the association in recognition of outstanding services rendered to the association and to the profession of medicine.

I'm sure you will join me in congratulating them on their success and well deserved recognition.

Data Protection Officers and GP practices under GDPR

The BMA has recently published new guidance on the role of the DPO in GP practices and this can be found by visiting the [BMA GDPR hub page](#).

Continuity of care is good for patients

A study from University of Exeter Medical School has been widely reported today, providing yet more evidence for the benefits of continuity of care. I have been interviewed by BBC Radio York about this, and my comments on the study have been reported in the national press. I said that “the BMA has for a long time stressed the benefits of continuity of care with patients seeing the same GP or team over time.” Read more in [The Daily Mail](#).

Using AI for medical diagnosis

The Telegraph, Times and [Mail](#) featured comments I made in response to the development of an artificial intelligence app by Babylon Health which claims to be as good as a doctor for diagnosing patients' conditions. I said: “AI may have a place in the tools doctors use to support and treat patients, but it cannot replace the essential elements of the doctor-patient relationship which is at the heart of medicine.”

Pulse’s Power 50: Nominate the most inspirational GPs now

Pulse has begun preparing its list of the most influential GPs in the UK. Each year, people are invited to nominate the GPs who they believe has the most influence on general practice, nationally and locally, and the future leaders of the profession. This is an opportunity for LMCs to nominate local GPs who may not be nationally known but who are making a difference locally and deserve recognition. The deadline for nominations is Monday 2 July, so please take time before then to consider this. Please click [here](#) to nominate someone.

How good is the NHS? - joint report

A joint report by the Nuffield Trust, the Health Foundation, the Institute for Fiscal Studies and The King’s Fund, entitled *How good is the NHS?*, was published this week which looks at three aspects of what constitutes a good healthcare system in the UK compared to 18 similar developed countries, including France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the USA. The three aspects examined were the speed and accessibility of care; efficiency of the system and the outcomes it achieves. It also looks at what the health service has to work with in terms of money, staff, equipment and the health of the population. Read the report [here](#).

Read the latest GP UK newsletter [here](#) (special ARM edition)

Have a good weekend

Richard