To:  
Chairs of LMCs, Secretaries of LMCs  
Members of GPC (UK)  
Members of the Conference Agenda Committee  
Members of the GPC Trainees Subcommittee  
Members of the GPC Sessional GPs Subcommittee

6 December 2018

Dear Colleagues

UK LMC Conference 2019

I’m delighted to invite you to the Annual Conference of LMCs (UK) 2019 and am writing to tell you a little more about the details of preparing for the event, which takes place on 19 and 20 March.

Motions

All LMCs, the GPC, the GPC Sessionals subcommittee, GPC Trainees subcommittee, and the Chairs of the Devolved Nations LMC Conferences are invited to submit motions for debate at Conference (please note that the deadline for submission follows shortly after the Christmas break, at noon, 8 January). These motions will reflect what your Committee think is important at the current time, what it would like debated at the Conference, and what new GPC UK policies it wishes to form.

To make the process of submission and prioritisation for debate more straightforward, the agenda committee would like to use a ‘heading system’ whereby LMCs select the heading under which GPC UK policy work stream their motion falls. If you think any of your motions fall outside these headings, you can submit them in an ‘Other’ category. The agenda committee will then review, group and agree the motions for debate as per the standing orders.

The format of the UK Conference is currently in a state of change. Your feedback from last year’s event in Liverpool was that a one day UK Conference was not quite long enough. Accordingly, we are trialling a one and a half day event this time, with a Conference Dinner on the evening of Day 1. Please note that the Conference itself will start in the afternoon of Tuesday 19 March, with registration from Midday. This will hopefully allow you to travel to Belfast that morning. In this respect, could I advise you please to consider making travel and accommodation arrangements for your representatives as a priority, in order to ensure that you are in Belfast in time for the start of the Conference.

As well as being an opportunity to form new GPC UK policy, this event is our best chance in the year for GP colleagues from each of the four UK nations to meet each other, and to learn from current
issues in the other countries. Given that aim, and the need to receive several other routine reports, the time for debating motions is relatively short. It is possible therefore that many submitted motions may not be able to be debated quite as written and be combined with similar motions from other LMCs. Could I ask you therefore please to submit only motions that your LMC thinks will contribute to the agenda and be useful in addressing and setting areas of new UK wide policy.

It is certainly my hope and expectation that the majority of motions will be focused on UK, rather than nation-specific issues, particularly as all four nations have recently had their national LMC Conferences, where they had the opportunity to discuss nation specific motions and agree national policy. Furthermore, national conference chairs will be able to submit motions from their Conferences, which they wish to pass to the UK Conference, and thus onto the ARM.

There is one exception to the advice I have given in the above paragraph, and that is in connection with the England Conference, where the English agenda committee placed a number of motions in Part 2 of their agenda, in a section specifically labelled as “UK specific” motions. If you are from an English LMC and have motions in that section of the agenda, then please do resubmit them to the UK agenda committee before the deadline if you still wish to see them debated.

**Format of Conference**

As mentioned above, this is the first year that the UK Conference will start at lunchtime and be held over a day and a half. We are aware that this follows closely after the four respective national Conferences. We are also aware of the will of Conference to move the date of the UK meeting back to May. It was too late to change the date for 2019 but we are indeed planning to move back to May for 2020. However, we are still in a state of transition and in unchartered territory as far as conference planning is concerned. The agenda committee is therefore quite happy to receive suggestions from LMCs on ideas of how to format the Conference going forward. If you do have any thoughts, please contact the agenda committee through Karen Day (KDay@bma.org.uk).

**Tone of Conference**

We all know the pressures facing general practice. Conference needs to be framed around how you wish GPC UK to deal with these pressures, rather than focussing on the pressures themselves; we need to guide and instruct GPC UK on how we want to move forward as a profession. We should not simply talk about the problems themselves but instead, look to suggest solutions as to how those problems can be dealt with. Hopefully we will be able to work together, to guide the GPC as to what the solutions are and how we want them delivered.

Conference is our opportunity to make the voices of LMCs and the doctors and practices we represent heard. I do want to encourage you all to make the best possible use of this time, to make UK policy which is useful, clear, new, and most importantly of all, which will meet the key concerns and needs of the grassroots GPs we represent.

I, along with the agenda committee, look forward to receiving your motions and to seeing you at the conference in March next year.

Yours sincerely

Mark Corcoran
Chair of Conference of UK LMCs