To BMA Retired Members

From the chairman of RM Conference re ARM 2018.

Dear Colleague,

All members are invited to check out the agenda for this year's ARM to be held at Brighton between 25th and 28th June. [https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/arm-2018](https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/arm-2018). Whether you will be present as a representative or not, please let your divisional, regional or myself know your views on motions which catch your eye. You can download the agenda and use the ‘find’ facility to highlight words associated with issues of interest. ‘Retired Member’ is a good place to start! You may need to convert the document to Word if your pdf programme does not allow ‘find’ or have a search function.

Going to ARM

If you will be at ARM, in any capacity, please do make yourself known to the retired members elected by Conference – we will be in our allocated seats, in the middle section at the front of the hall.

Motions

Please note that starred motion 42 on the untimely exodus of doctors from the NHS will be proposed by the retired members conference on behalf of the agenda committee. Russell Walshaw, who initially proposed the theme of this motion at our conference, will be the proposer, but I am sure others of us will enter speaking slips to support him. I believe this is the first time RM conference has been invited to propose a motion on behalf of the Agenda Committee and Russell is to be congratulated for bringing this important issue to the attention of the representative body.

The largest block of motions - on professional regulation and the GMC - are starred (grouped) at 94. There are 27 motions expressing no confidence in the GMC as presently constituted. 94 (iii) calls for its chairman and CEO to resign.

Our conference motion is included in the group at 94q. The recent announcement that in future the GMC will not be able to appeal the decisions of its own Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service (which it has only been able to do since 2015), is unlikely to assuage the concerns being expressed about the case of Dr Hadiza Bawa-Gaba.

You might also care to note the recommendation in paragraph 11 of the Williams Report on Gross Negligence Manslaughter and consider whether there is an implied critique of the GMC’s ‘Registrar’ (CEO):

“Ahead of the legislative change needed to remove its power of appeal, the GMC should review its processes for deciding when to refer a decision of the MPTS so that it is transparent and understood by all parties and involves a group or panel decision, as opposed to lying solely with the Registrar.”
The most important motion for retired members is 5 – proposing to amend the bye-laws in the manner set out in appendix II of document ARM 1A. The organisation Committee co-chairs will propose the formation of a standing committee for retired members. This is the culmination of much hard work by your representatives, conference officers and secretariat and I would like to express my thanks to them all, and to you for your support. Given motion 5’s expected passage there will be informal celebrations at the conclusion of the ARM and there may even be biscuits!

**Retired Members Committee**

RMC’s first formal meeting will be held at the beginning of October. All the motions passed at conference will be considered and all RMs are invited to notify us of other worthy matters or concerns. More details will follow in due course on the retired members’ section of the BMA website.

The members of the RMC elected by conference will be: Richard Rawlins, Brian Gutteridge, Robin Arnold, Kailash Agrawal, Stephen Miller, Surjait Singh, David White and Andrew West.

David will be invited to represent us on the BMA’s Internal Review Group considering gender pay-gap; Robin will continue discussions with the membership department on how we may best notify members of deaths of colleagues; and a female RM is being co-opted to review the Board of Science’s draft report on unmet needs in women’s health.

**Stay in touch**

Please do let me know if there is aught I can do on your behalf.

In these difficult times, please encourage your colleagues to remain members of the Association and to make sure their membership contact details are up-to-date

We are all likely to need healthcare - we all want the best our profession can offer - we must ensure our profession can offer the best. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Best wishes

Richard

Richard Rawlins