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To:

Chairs and Secretaries of LMCs
Members of GPC (UK)
Members of the LMC UK Conference Agenda Committee
Members of the GP Trainees Committee
Members of the Sessional GPs Committee

15 January 2021

Dear Colleagues

UK LMC Conference 2021

I am very pleased to invite you to the Annual Conference of Representatives of LMCs (UK) 2021 and am writing to tell you a little more about the details of preparing for the event, which is due to take place on 12 and 13 May.

I would appreciate it if you could circulate this information to your members as soon as possible, so they can start thinking about motions now.

Please note that in view of the ongoing devastating pandemic and the uncertainty of how the situation may unfold over the next few months I, along with my agenda committee, have decided, with some regret, that this will be a virtual conference rather than “in person”. We did not take this decision lightly. I am sure that we would all have welcomed the opportunity to meet together face to face (particularly when we all hope to be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel by May). However, we believe this is the right decision for both the profession and for the safety of the staff who help support our conference.

Motions

Information about submitting motions to conference is attached (appendix 1 and 2), which should be done via this [link](#) by noon, 19 February. All LMCs, the GPC, the GPC Sessionals Committee, GPC Trainees Committee, and the Chairs of the Devolved Nations LMC Conferences are invited to submit motions for debate at the LMC UK Conference. These motions will reflect what your Committee thinks is important at the current time, what it would like debated at the Conference, and what new GPC UK policies it wishes to form, which may then ultimately influence BMA policy through the ARM.

To make the process of submission and prioritisation for debate more straightforward, we are using a ‘heading system’ whereby LMCs select one of the suggested headings under which their motion falls. If you think any of your motions fall outside these subject areas, you can submit them in an ‘Other’ category. The agenda committee will then review the motions for debate as per the standing orders.

Format of Conference

While the structure of conference is still being finalised, I can tell you that conference will be a two-day event starting on the morning of 12 May (timing to be confirmed).



Given the virtual nature of the conference, and the need to receive several other routine reports, the time for debating motions can be relatively short. As such, it is possible that many submitted motions may not be able to be debated quite as written and they may 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 already had their national LMC Conferences, where they had the opportunity to discuss nation-specific matters and agree national policy. Furthermore, national conference chairs are able to submit motions from their Conferences, which they wish to pass to the UK Conference, and thus onto the ARM.

To avoid potential disappointment, you must ensure that the motions you submit address UK relevant issues. We regret that nation-specific motions will have to be rejected and not prioritised for debate. That means you need to be careful about the language you use. Please do not reference nation-specific bodies like NHS England or Health Boards, for example, as that will also likely lead to your motion being rejected.

The agenda committee is always happy to receive suggestions from LMCs on ideas of how to format the Conference going forward. You can contact us by emailing info.lmconference@bma.org.uk.

Tone of Conference

We all know the unprecedented pressures facing general practice currently across the UK. Conference needs to be framed around how you wish to guide and instruct GPC UK to deal with these pressures, particularly in a post COVID landscape, rather than focussing on the pressures themselves.

With this in mind, the Agenda Committee has looked at how we wish to structure a conference that is forward-looking. As I have mentioned above, we are inviting motions to be submitted under a range of headings, many of which are designed to be strategic and constructive. While we will neither forget or underplay the unprecedented health crisis which our colleagues have been dealing with for over a year, hopefully, we will also be able to leave conference with a sense of optimism about what we wish to achieve for our branch of practice going into the future.

We should not simply talk about the problems themselves but instead, look to suggest solutions as to how they 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 May.

Yours sincerely



Mark Corcoran

Chair of UK Conference of Representatives of LMCs