

Report

MOTION by the chair of the conference: That the report of the retired members conference be received.

Meeting: 24 March 2023

Present: Stephen Millar (in the chair), Surjait Singh (deputy chair), Brian Guttridge (RMC chair), Peter Curry (RMC deputy chair), Phil Banfield (BMA council chair), Martin McKee (BMA president), Carole Cairns (RMC member), Tom Kane (RMC member), Tom Kinloch (RMC member), Nicola Mann (RMC member), Wendy Savage (RMC member) and 69 retired members (44 in person and 25 online).

PROGRESS REPORT

1. 2023 conference

The retired members conference was held at BMA House on Friday 24th March 2023. The meeting theme was productive, healthy ageing and addresses were heard from the following speakers:

- Dr Stephen Millar, BMA retired members conference chair *'Welcome and introduction'*;
- Professor Phil Banfield, BMA council chair *'Future direction of the BMA'*
- Professor Martin McKee, BMA president *'Myths and realities about ageing: an international perspective'*
- Professor Anthony Woolf, Director Bone and Joint Research Group, Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust *'Musculoskeletal health as we age'*
- Dr Trudi Edginton, Clinical Psychologist and Reader in Psychology, City, University of London *'The impact of mindfulness for successful ageing: A cognitive neuroscience approach'*
- Professor Raanan Gillon, Emeritus Professor of Medical Ethics, Imperial College London *'Allocating scarce medical resources and the elderly: how fair is 'the fair innings argument'?''*

2. Motion debate

Thereafter, members of the conference debated motions submitted in advance, the resolutions can be found in Appendix 1. The conference officers and retired members committee prioritised resolutions, 3, 4 and 13 for referral to the joint agenda committee. These motions called for action to legally recognise long Covid, to make name badges for NHS staff more accessible and to restore all NHS ear wax removal services respectively.

3. Elections for the chair and deputy chair of retired members conference

Elections were held for the chair and deputy chair of retired members conference for a term of 2 years from the conclusion of the 2023 ARM. Mr Surjait Singh was elected unopposed as chair and Dr Tom Kane was elected unopposed as deputy chair.

4. RMConf seats for the annual representative meeting 2023

19 seats were allocated to the retired members conference for the annual representative meeting, three of which were reserved for the conference deputy chair and the chair and deputy chair of retired members committee. It was noted that the conference chair had not required his ARM retired member seat allocation, having been elected to ARM via another constituency.

This year, with the exception of the three seats reserved conference officers, all 19 RMConf seats at the ARM were filled by ballot.

5. Election for seats on the retired members committee

Elections were held for 3 seats on the retired members committee and 1 casual vacancy on the committee (arising from Tom Kane's resignation following his election as retired members conference chair).

The following people were elected to the committee:

- Carole Mary Cairns (for 2 sessions from the close of 2023 ARM until the close of 2025 ARM)
- Peter David Curry (for 1 session from the close of the 2023 ARM until the close of 2024 ARM – due to a casual vacancy arising from Tom Kane's resignation following his election as retired members conference deputy chair)
- Brian Guttridge (for 2 sessions from the close of 2023 ARM until the close of 2025 ARM)
- Stephen Westgarth Millar (for 2 sessions from the close of 2023 ARM until the close of 2025 ARM)

STEPHEN MILLAR
Chair

MOTION by the council chair: That the report of the retired members conference be approved.

2023 retired members conference

Resolutions

Procedure, process and timetables

CARRIED	1	That the Standing Orders of the Retired Members Conference be adopted.
CARRIED	2	That all motions prefixed with the letter "A" be accepted without debate.

CoVID-19

CARRIED	3	This meeting encourages BMA Council to redouble its efforts to make the Governments legally recognise Long Covid as an occupational illness for all NHS clinical staff.
----------------	----------	---

Culture, inclusion and diversity

CARRIED	4	<p>This meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) reflects that at ARM 2016, representatives' badges bore the legend "#hellomynameis" in response to the initiative of Dr Kate Granger and her campaign for "truly compassionate care." (ii) draws the attention of NHS employees to the campaign by Race Equality Matters to promote the use of phonetically spelt names in order to improve communication between staff and patients, ensure correct pronunciation of names and enhance inclusivity, subject to the volition of staff. (www.raceequalitymatters.com/my-name-is.) (iii) reaffirms that any managerial imposition of any such spelling is unacceptable (policy, ARM 2022).
CARRIED	4	<p>RIDER</p> <p>(iv) Staff should be supported to have their name displayed in a form and format of their choosing and if desired by staff, with an additional second, more accessible format.</p>

Pensions

CARRIED	6	This meeting condemns the failure of the NHS Pension Scheme to cease subjecting the income of LTFT (less than full time), mostly locum, GPs to annualisation when calculating the contribution rate, and instructs BMA Council to investigate whether this action by NHS pensions breaches any anti-discrimination laws.
----------------	----------	---

Science, health and society

A CARRIED WITHOUT DEBATE	8	That this Meeting accepts that medical misinformation is a widespread and present danger. A pilot project is proposed for the East of England Division to find retired members able and willing to identify examples of medical misinformation with a view to developing the means to counteract them.
---	----------	--

Retired members

CARRIED AS A REFERENCE	9	That this Conference is concerned at the extension in September 2022 by SoS for Health and Social Care for a further 2 years of the Temporary Emergency Registration of retired doctors which was done without consent or consultation, and calls on the BMA to <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) voice concern at this high-handed action(ii) urge the GMC to individually contact all affected doctors to ascertain if they wish to remain on the active register
CARRIED AS A REFERENCE	11	That this conference agrees that doctors who are clinically retired can use their transferrable skills and expertise to continue to contribute to NHS support work as educators, mentors and other nonclinical roles within the NHS. It calls on the BMA to work with the GMC and Medical Colleges to ensure <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) that a licence to practice clinically is not an automatic requirement for these nonclinical rolesii) that role specific appraisals are put in place to ensure these doctors keep their professional standards up to dateiii) that they are provided with ongoing training and professional development.

CARRIED	12	That this conference asks that doctors who have retired from clinical practice or left the NHS for any reason and wish to return to NHS clinical work are given individual, funded, supervised support at local level so that their return to work is as seamless and unbureaucratic as possible.
----------------	-----------	---

National Health Service

CARRIED	13	That this conference deplores the fact that the removal of impacted ear wax is no longer available for patients on the NHS in some areas. This unacceptable postcode lottery further disadvantages patients who are on a low income and already subject to health inequalities. This conference calls on the BMA to press governments across the UK to restore this service to all patients who require it.
----------------	-----------	---

BMA structure and function

CARRIED	14	That this meeting asks that the constitution of the pensions committee be amended to include one voting member elected by the retired members committee.
CARRIED AS A REFERENCE	15	This meeting mandates the Retired Members Committee to institute a dinner for attendees on the evening prior to RM Conference, in common with other conferences of branches of practice and that for divisional honorary secretaries/regional officers.
CARRIED AS A REFERENCE	16	That this meeting should consider officially inviting other BoP representatives to attend the Retired Members Committee to enhance the collaboration as stated in the RMC key priorities and objectives.