

Dear PMCPA Member

AGM Paper 3

In June 2019, when we met at our last AGM, we had no inkling of the global disaster that was about to strike us and the rest of the world. The Coronavirus, or Covid-19, pandemic took us all by surprise here in February 2020. It is not only still with us all, but likely also to continue to have a lasting impact on all our lives in multiple ways for the foreseeable future.

Over the last 9 months, Covid-19 has affected everyone in some form, whether directly or indirectly. The PMCPA Trustees and I wish to extend our deepest condolences to those of you have experienced the loss of close family or friends, and our best wishes for any who have contracted the illness and survived, yet continue face a long, and at times seriously difficult, journey back to full health.

We are well aware that for many of our Members this period has meant sustained isolation and loneliness. The emotional and mental stress arising from not being able to meet up with family and close friends, or participate in the simple activities that are a normal part of our daily lives, is the unseen impact of this virus: this will clearly have had a detrimental effect on our individual and collective wellbeing.

As Trustees, we have had a number of strategic discussions online by Zoom over recent months. We have reviewed the kinds of things we can still do to meet our Members' needs, given the limited scope for face-to-face contact at present. Fortunately, we have been able to convene the Carers Café, albeit virtually, on a number of occasions. Many of our drivers have, in addition, been able to provide transport for those of our patients who most need it. Sadly, however, we have had to postpone for the time being the series of health talks planned earlier this year in partnership with the Pinn Medical Centre.

Clearly, this pandemic has challenged us all to think about new and different ways of engaging effectively with each other. Trustees will continue to consider how best we might serve our Members in the months ahead. If you have any thoughts or suggestions on this, please feel free to share them with us online (www.pinnpatients.org). In the meantime, we propose to have our first ever recorded/virtual AGM.

One of the most important aspects of this AGM will, as before, be to nominate and elect Trustees.

This year three of our Trustees, including myself as Chair, are standing down. Jagdish Kapur, Brian Yim Lim and I were elected by the PMCPA membership five years ago, in 2015, when it was at a particularly vulnerable stage. I wish to thank them both for their important contributions, which have helped the Association to thrive over the last five years. Since then, we have achieved most of the objectives that we set ourselves at the time. This chiefly included us: updating the PMCPA's Constitution for the first time in over a decade; increasing our membership, which, before the pandemic struck earlier this year, stood at its highest level ever; recruiting new Trustees; and, last but not least, launching a new website.

To ensure that the Association continues to build on this progress, Trustees recently completed another recruitment drive. This led to it producing three potential new Trustees - Jayant Doshi, Aryan Jain and Lorraine Solomon - to present to PMCPA Members for election at this year's AGM. Trustees are satisfied that each candidate has many different qualities to offer; and that jointly, as well as in partnership with existing Trustees, they will help take the PMCPA from strength to strength over the coming months and years.

As you probably recall, continued funding for the Pinn's Walk In Centre (WIC) came under serious threat in Spring 2019. At the 2019 AGM, Nick Hurd, former MP for Northwood, Ruislip and Pinner, formally endorsed the Pinn's and PMCPA's determination to save the Pinn's WIC. Nick had always been hugely supportive of our Association during his tenure as the MP, and we remain truly grateful for his invaluable support in that role. We have had the great good fortune to welcome similar levels of exceptional commitment to and support of the PMCPA from David Simmonds MP. David replaced Nick as MP for our constituency at the December 2019 General Election.

Shortly after the 2019 AGM, the Senior Partners at the Pinn, along with PMCPA Trustees invited, Prakash Daswani - a retired charity CEO, long-term Pinn patient and PMCPA member, to spearhead what proved a successful 8-month public and media campaign to "Save the WIC". As campaign organizer, he was ably supported by a resolute and tireless voluntary team comprising more than 20 regular users of the Pinn's WIC - including Sheila Cole, Ruth McNeil, Sharon Pink, Jo Telfer & Ken Evans - as well as key frontline staff at the PMC. The Pinn's Senior Partners, PMCPA Trustees, and the Save the WIC patient-led campaign, joined forces to present compelling arguments directly to Harrow's Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in Autumn 2019, to review its decision to cut substantial funding from the Pinn's annual funding from 2020 onwards.

In late December 2019 and early January 2020, this broad coalition of Doctors, Trustees, campaign volunteers and key staff, elicited the informal - yet nevertheless priceless - support also of Lord Daniel Finkelstein, a long-time Pinner resident, and of David Simmonds, our new MP. The latter two made determined yet carefully targeted representations on behalf of the Save the WIC campaign, at the highest levels of national Government.

As a result, in late January 2020, the Secretary of State, Matt Hancock, formally acknowledged and accepted the exceptional value of the Pinn's WIC, particularly for its 40,000 strong patient community within Pinner and neighbouring areas. His formal support led to the CCG and NHS England agreeing not to proceed with the proposed cuts to the WIC's funding for the foreseeable future.

Because the forthcoming AGM will be my last one as Chair, I wish to offer my thanks to all of you. It really has been such a privilege for me to serve you as your Chair for the last five years. I have benefitted greatly myself, by making so many new friends, and have been fortunate too to learn so much about public health provision - and about Pinner as a unified and generous community. I am most grateful to the Pinn's Partners for engaging with the Association and for supporting us to develop the different strands of our work.

Finally, I wish to thank my fellow Trustees for their dedication to the aims and objectives of the Association, and for their consistent efforts and invaluable input.

I have greatly enjoyed working with all of you and I offer everyone my best wishes for the future.



Joanne Daswani
November 2020