

As we come towards the end of summer school term the rain is making England green and the winds of change pass through the BGPERT team. Anya Leaver and Phil Whitaker are leaving us and Linda McHugh is stepping down from coordinating meetings, to become an Education Consultant for our CPD Programme. Some of you have had the opportunity of meeting our new Educator Coordinators Tom Cahill, Sam Gardener and Zoe Haines. On behalf of all of us, I would like give Anya and Phil our very best wishes for the future, and welcome Tom, Sam and Zoe and acknowledge, for each of them, their educational innovations, both past, present and future.

Every now and then I reflect how lucky I am to be a working, Generalist GP. In times of pension strikes and hours of QP, it helps me to stop and think what really inspires me and how I can maintain my enthusiasm for my patients and my practice team. Perhaps the words Professor Amanda Howe offers in the RCGP journal may resonate for you too, "...the Generalist sees health and ill-health in the context of people's wider lives, recognising and accepting wide variation in the way those lives are lived, and in the context of the whole person." Seeing myself as a generalist, taking a "broad and holistic perspective to patients problems" allows me to reflect the importance of my inspiration, my ongoing education, my continuing professional development, my CPD.

Education, our CPD, also helps us to innovate in our practice. Reflecting on yesterdays Ultimate Journal Club, time to evaluate real issues for Generalist GPs in depth, discussing and re-evaluating many topics relevant for primary care, is so very important for CPD. I also value the importance of learning, listening to others and sharing my learning with colleagues; having the opportunity to discuss and ask colleagues questions. We have many educational options, but the experience of learning together and discussing topics relevant for primary care, together, with local relevance, is at the heart of the BGPERT philosophy. Our programme of approximately 60 meetings each year, aims to cover major topics yearly or every 2 years, using a variety of lectures, small group and interactive sessions, whilst responding to local educational needs and interests: CPD for us, generalist working GPs. BGPERT too can achieve success - our collaborative Dementia education programme has been considered for a case study for the GMC.

Extended local CPD opportunities are also available from University of Bath. Lead Tim Bilham would like us to be aware of their unique, modular postgraduate programme in Primary Care, which allows GP and GPs in training to take courses to broaden their generalist and specialist skills. Developed with the Severn Deanery, there are modules in clinical and non-medical subjects. Experienced GPs can fast track by counting prior learning and there is a special route for other health professionals. The Severn Deanery are providing full-fee bursaries for GPSTRs, GP Educators ad others working with the School of Primary Care.

Further details: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/study/pg/programmes/msc-prim-care>

I hope as members you too appreciate the BGPERT philosophy of collaborative learning for generalist practice. I would like to identify two issues, which I hope you will continue to value.

Our DNA rate has increased recently, disappointingly to significant numbers, up to 25% of the register for 2 recent meetings. I hope, as we try and alter our patients' behaviour in our practices, I can ask you to value BGPERT, as a professional organisation, and register only for meetings you intend to attend, rationalising catering costs and allowing others to come, who may be on a waiting list.

Secondly the viewing of our presentations page on our website is approaching 'highest innings test score' status. Whilst we hope the website acts as an informative notice board, the presentations page is a unique service for our members, to review presentations after attending, and when you have been unable to attend events. The BGPERT Team have decided to password protect this page and we will be telling you more about this in the very near future. Our planned date for change is July 14.

*Wishing all of our members an enjoyable summer,*

*Nicole and all the BGPERT Team*