

# **MORGANNWG LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE**

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## **LMC Newsletter January 2011**

### **Chairman's Blog**

*Happy New Year! As we move into 2011, and with all the changes being proposed within the White Paper that puts General Practice firmly at the forefront of the NHS, I find myself pondering the future of General Practice and in particular, how to enthuse and motivate ALL GP's to become actively involved in ensuring these changes work for patients as well as the profession.*

*It has struck me over the last few years, that the profession is struggling to get new faces involved either at a local level (with LMCs, College faculties, BMA Divisions, Health Board Level) and also nationally. It is difficult to know whether this is due to GP's simply wanting to get on with the job of being a GP and not interested in medical politics (with a small p) OR if there is no time for this (certainly I have noticed practice is getting increasingly busy and more complex) OR if they are not sure they "have what it takes" to get involved (although when I am told that by colleagues I am never quite sure what they mean).*

*I am going to indulge here in recounting my own experience in the hope that it may make one or two think "I could do that" or "I fancy seeing what the opportunities are", because there are huge opportunities out there for GP's these days no matter where they are in their career.*

*My first knowledge of the LMC was when one of my partners stepped down and, as we had always had somebody from the practice on the LMC, he encouraged myself and my female partner to attend. I found the meetings bemusing to start with – a different language, talking about things I had never heard of and lots of quite strong characters there (you know who you are). It certainly took some time finding my feet let alone actually speaking. Thankfully, once I got up the courage to speak, I found that not only were my views listened to and respected but that they were valued, and that has been my experience of all the committees/organisations I have been involved – of course, am sure many wish they had never let me start speaking as I certainly can't stop now!! Over the years, I have also been fortunate to have mentorship from 3 charismatic wonderful doctors (Keith Richards, Bryn John & Tony Calland) who have supported and encouraged me at all times. For me, I think that the mentorship that they have given has been invaluable, and it is that which I think would support those dipping their toes in the water of this sea of change.*

*I urge you all to think about whether or not you can get involved and where you would like to get involved – is it developing your practice further, is it taking a lead in the locality networks, is it going along to an LMC/divisional/faculty meeting? Can you, or I, identify a mentor who could support you in this? What is important is that you get your views and thoughts heard through engagement in the areas that will drive General Practice forward. My phone and email are always available if anybody would like to give me a call to find out how they can take this agenda forward.*

*Charlotte*

### **Morgannwg LMC—2011 and beyond**

Morgannwg LMC is a Statutory Body to Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board which means that ABMU HB must consult the LMC on matters relating to the General Medical Services contract (although they are not obliged to take the advice given). The LMC is elected on a three-yearly basis and elections will be held in the next few weeks for the 2011—2014 session.

For the first time in its history, Morgannwg LMC will have a separate constituency for Sessional GPs across the whole of the ABMU Health Board area (5 members) in addition to its constituencies for GP Contractors in Bridgend (5 members), Neath Port Talbot (5 members) and Swansea (10 members). It is hoped that this will strengthen the representation of Sessional GPs in the ABMU HB area in line with the stated aims of Morgannwg LMC.

If you are a GP in the ABMU HB area, you will shortly receive nomination papers that will require completion and return to BSC Contractor Services by 21 February 2011. If the number of nominations in any constituency exceed the number of places, a postal election will be held and all GPs will be able to vote for candidates in their constituency. The results will be announced in time for the new LMC to take up its role on 01 April 2011.

As our Chairman has said in her Blog, the LMC needs to continue to represent the views of all General Practitioners in its area and this is your opportunity to play an active part in this. To paraphrase a famous speech: "Ask not what your GP colleagues can do for you, ask what you can do for your GP colleagues" and send in your nomination for Morgannwg LMC to enable you to do this!

#### **Decommissioning Enhanced Services**

ABMU Health Board and its Localities are reviewing their Enhanced Services and have given the regulation three months notice of discontinuation of some Enhanced Services such as Diabetes. However, the intention is to re-vamp the Diabetes LES and offer it across the ABMU HB area for 2011-12. In the event of other ESs being withdrawn completely, Practices will be under no obligation to continue to do any of the work beyond that expected under the provision of General Medical Services. Also, if a LES is discontinued, the LMC has made it clear that the Localities MUST inform Secondary Care colleagues of this.

#### **Complaints about GP services in ABMU HB**

The LMC has had a number of complaints from constituent GPs where patients have sought the advice of local politicians and have been advised to ignore the Practice-based Complaints procedures and to go straight to ABMU Health Board. However, ABMU HB then returns the complaints to the complainant with a recommendation for local action in line with the Regulations. This has been discussed with ABMU HB and their view is that, overall, the Practice-based resolution of complaints worked well although there was a suggestion that the response to complaints sometimes needed a more empathetic approach and a more detailed response. GPs are reminded that they should also consider seeking advice from their Defence bodies or from the LMC when dealing with complaints about clinical matters.

#### **Annual Certificate of Pensionable Earnings**

The General Practitioners Committee (UK) has issued a reminder to GPs and their accountants that, in accordance with the NHS Pension Scheme Regulations, they must provide their Primary Care Organisation with a completed certificate no later than one month from the date the HMRC tax return is due. The accumulated data are used to help confirm NHS information on GP earnings and it is important that this is as current as possible.

#### **'Sessional GPs: Your Pathway to Success'**

The BMA has organised a one-day educational conference on Friday 11 March 2011 at BMA House, London. The conference will provide salaried and locum GPs with expert advice, support and information on the key issues affecting their career, as well as offering the helpful opportunity to network with Sessional GP colleagues from around the country and discuss shared issues and concerns. See BMA website for details.

#### **Annual Conference of LMCs 2011**

Do you have a motion for your Representatives to speak to at Conference? If so, please can you submit it to the LMC Office before 31 March 2011.

#### **And finally**

David Sissling, Chief Executive, ABMU HB, will join the WAG as Director General, Health & Social Services and Chief Executive of NHS Wales, replacing Paul Williams who retires in the Spring. David has worked well with Morgannwg LMC and it offers him its best wishes for the future.

**Next LMC meetings:** Exec Committee 7.00pm Tuesday 08 February 2011 - venue TBA  
Full Committee 7.00pm Tuesday 08 March 2011 - Towers Hotel, Jersey Marine  
AGM & Dinner 7.00pm Tuesday 12 April 2011 - Blanco's, Port Talbot