

Heads of Department

NOTE FOR SAPC AGM – July 2020

This is my final report at the end of a 3 year term as chair of the HODS group.

We started my term by examining the nature and purpose of the group as well as the timing and duration of the meetings. The meetings primary functions are threefold

- To share intelligence regarding policy that impacts on the wider community of primary care researchers,
- To liaise with and advise the executive body for SAPC
- To liaise at a senior level with other relevant institutions (NIHR RCGP).

It was also established that the meetings provided a mutual peer support mechanism for those in senior positions and that the evening meeting and overnight stay were important components of that peer support. It is timely to reflect again at the point of transition on the nature and frequency of the meetings to reset and ensure they remain both relevant and efficient. The meetings will be necessarily different due to Covid 19 and so we should examine again the nature and frequency. At this my final meeting I will hand over to Jo Reeve and we have worked together to adapt the agenda to fit a shorter virtual meeting.

I have to give thanks to John Campbell and Tony Avery who have continued to represent the interests of senior academic GPs (in England) in order that they may continue to access the Clinical Excellence Award scheme. Whilst progress has been made and a process for contracts has been agreed this is still not uniformly applied and nor is there any meaningful progress on Local CEA awards which penalises those earlier in their careers as they work towards the national awards.

Our relationship with the Teachers has been repaired and strengthened – we now hold joint meetings where items of mutual interest are discussed. There is progress but no resolution of the SIFT discussions. Similarly our relationship with the college is strengthened with twice yearly meetings and a clear understanding of the strengths of each party. With Martin Marshall at the helm I envisage continued engagement and strengthening of the relationship.

We remain numerically a small academic group although in international terms making a substantial contribution to world literature. We need to remain united as the future is uncertain due to financial turbulence arriving in the university sector. So our mutual support and friendship remain vital to see us through troubled times ahead.

Mike Moore
Chair of HODs

Nick Francis
Secretary of HODs