



## BOPA SUMMER NEWSLETTER

JULY 2017

Hello, it's the BOPA summer newsletter, designed to be read whilst on the beach, or out and about in our beautiful countryside...well, not really. Anyway you're all hopefully, having, had or going to have a great holiday with time away from work to reset for the autumn! Since I re-joined the committee and took on chair the thing that is crystal clear to me is that for BOPA to be effective the committee and sub committees have to all work together. We are all busy in our day jobs but by sharing out the work load we becomes greater than the sum of individuals. Our challenge is to ensure all the great ideas and all the great work is given the time and attention it needs to develop things to fruition but hopefully we've got some exciting things coming



The big focus of course is in October and Glasgow for our 20th anniversary conference which is one of the highlight's of the BOPA year, thanks to the conference committees time and attention. We will reflect on what's past, what's current and look to the future and make sure that BOPA offers a wide range of benefits to its members.

### **Highest Ever Number of Posters**

You will hopefully have seen from our Twitter account that we received a record 100 poster submissions this year, nearly double the usual amount and the great news is we were able to accept 75% of submissions, Yeah!



Those of you who submit posters will know over the last few years the A&R committee has applied more stringent acceptance criteria for our posters and increased the level of scrutiny for acceptable abstracts. This has been part of a grand plan which is now come to fruition in that we will get our abstracts published in an international journal that has an impact factor of 1.735 and will appear in search engines. <http://journals.sagepub.com/home/opp>.

So well done to the 75 of you who just got a quality publication to your name, 😊 but the bigger picture is that this raises the profile of oncology pharmacy practice research in the UK and we hope that many of you go on to write up your work properly and submit as full papers

### **Join us, we'd love to have you on board**

It's election time; you will have see a call for people to stand for the BOPA committee. I'd encourage all of you to consider this, Being on the BOPA committee is a great experience, great for your CV and profile and allows you to give something back. There will be space on committee for people with all types of skills and strengths, BOPA thrives and survives on all of us as members joining in and working together, we have a very democratic and active main committee.

If standing for election is maybe a step too far for you this year, BOPA members will also have opportunity to submit expression of interest to be part of a new subcommittee., our new 'Professional Standards, Guidelines and Consultation Sub Committee'... (yes I know it needs a more catchy name!). The new committee will work closely with the E&T committee and help BOPA set standards for Oncology Pharmacy Practice to support our members and support the profession as a whole.

We all rely on the work of our subcommittees, you can see the success of the A&R committee with the JOPP and our education and training subcommittee, which has an ambitious program to develop our digital content and continue providing relevant and innovative education.

### ***Helping you to inspire the next generation***

My personal passion and goal whilst BOPA chair is to do what we can to reduce the amount of duplication we all do repeating the same work in each and every Trust, i.e. writing local training programmes, local protocols etc. etc. So one challenge we will put to the education and training committee for next year is to look at how we can develop and support training for newly qualified pharmacists who are doing rotational training through oncology. They're not likely to pay to become BOPA member's, too early in their career but oncology pharmacists and technicians in every Trust have to spend a lot of time training these newly qualified pharmacists. So BOPA could help its members by working to standardise training programmes nationally and potentially develop a suite of training resources that BOPA members can access to help them when training newly qualified/ new to oncology pharmacists.

### ***Symposium***

Plans for the Annual Conference in Glasgow are gathering steam thanks to our hard working conference subcommittee and Kirstie and her team at Succinct. We have got some exciting sessions lined up, including innovative ways of working with industry partners, I'm pleased to report that the committee is taking a more active role in the industry sponsored educational sessions with a member of the committee chairing or on the faculty for each of the industry sessions, to ensure transparency and balance and avoid repetition.

The committee really want to encourage as many of our members as possible to attend the conference we have taken a financial risk reducing attendance fee by 50% so really need to have good attendance in order to be able to keep the fee's this low for future. We have been reaching out to our brother /sister professional groups and are delighted to welcome, POP (Paediatric Oncology Pharmacists) to BOPA. They will have a of paediatric oncology stream which is open to all. We are also working with them to ensure that oncology pharmacists joining BOPA and POP do not have to pay excessive fees.

We are looking at how we can support professional practice, we have recently partnered with Liverpool University to support an online oncology drug interactions website.

### ***Transparency, Sponsorship and Partnership with Pharmaceutical Industry***

We have just published our transparency position statement on how we work with the pharmaceutical industry which outlines our position on sponsored medical education, see <http://www.bopawebsite.org/publications/position-statements>.



BOPA operates as a charity and has a successful partnership with Succinct Communications who manage our membership and run the Conference. Succinct receives sponsorship to fund the conference from the industry, so we needed a transparency statement to show clearly how this works.

The committee are aware that in the past many BOPA members received individual sponsorship to help fund attendance at our conference, however times change and this is often no longer available. Also many members people are not able to accept direct sponsorship form industry so with this in mind we made sure that this year the conference fee was reduced by 50% to make it more affordable.

One exciting development for 2018, is that we are working on setting up a bursary scheme, which BOPA members can apply to for funding for conferences from. We are also exploring using the bursary scheme to enable small group BOPA members to attend an international cancer conference, as part of a supported group, who can then deliver and feedback education for the rest of our members. The type of thing that pharmaceutical companies used to do in the past however this will be completely independent and in line with our new transparent way of working and a far more democratic selection process.

**Enjoy the rest of the summer**

**Steve Williamson, BOPA Chair.**