



## BOPA NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016

Hello my name is Steve, welcome to the BOPA newsletter, the committee has just finished a two day planning meeting for the coming year and we are all very excited as there are a lot of things going on! We have agreed our roles on the committee, see <http://www.bopawebsite.org/about>, and as the new chair I feel lucky to be joining a committee where we all equally contribute and work for our membership, it's a great team to be part of. I'm grateful to Man-Chie as our Vice Chair and joint Treasurer with Rob who will both be keeping me on the right track, and of course Helen as immediate past chair isn't allowed to escape and will be helping the committee.

### ***Website Update***

Firstly some news about our website, this was launched at the conference as a modern multi-platform site which people can access from their mobile phones and tablets. The site is still a work in progress and in the next week or so you will see some further updates which will include our 'Resources' section where we will be publishing our position statements, guidelines and documents. The functionality of the forum will be improved with return of 'sections' and 'alerts' so members can receive emails informing them of forum posts. Finally we will be launching symposium videos soon so you can catch up on sessions you missed.

Over the next 1 to 2 months more e-learning content will become available. We continue to work with Succinct as our Secretariat and they are now providing the management of the website. They have just strengthened their IT team so they can speed up the delivery of the site functionality for us. For those techy types amongst you, our site is based on Drupal a free open source platform, which we learned that Barrack Obama installed for the White House systems in the US, which I thought was pretty cool. Anyway the committee members have all had training and have been given administrator rights for the site which increases our flexibility and control to rapidly deliver updates and content. We'd welcome ideas on how we can use the site to be beneficial to you all.

### ***IT Sub Group***

We can see that our IT sub-group, led by Stephen with Liz and Bryn's support has an important job liaising with Succinct, keeping the development of the website on track and looking at new opportunities to embrace the technology we invested in.

### ***Communication of Committee Activities***

Penny and Sophie as our Joint Secretary's will be producing a workplan for the committee which we will publish on the website, (along with committee meeting minutes) so members can see what we are up to, and make sure we are delivering! This may be the last traditional newsletter as our plan is to use the functionality of the new website with committee members aiming to post weekly news updates on our work and activities. Each month the website will then automatically collate these new items and produce a monthly email digest which will replace the newsletter. Pretty smart eh, and slightly more efficient method than one of us typing up the newsletter on the train back from a meeting!

### ***Audit and Research Committee***

The A&R committee, led by Carl and Man-Chie will be busy, with one or two new faces joining the committee. We will have soon have some exciting news about having the abstracts of posters that are presented at conference published in 'referenceable' journals so increasing the oncology pharmacy visibility, improving our practice research evidence based by indexing our members' work on Medline, Pubmed etc.



### ***Education and Training***

The E&T committee led by Simon and Penny is busy getting our e-learning content reviewed, updated and transferred onto the new website. We are looking to the future with new modules and planning new training days and educational opportunities. We have got some such exciting ideas about new partnerships and development opportunities that will help support members daily pharmaceutical practice, so watch this space.

### ***Community Pharmacy Task and Finish sub group***

Jackie and I will be setting up a community pharmacy task and finish group with a number of pieces of work looking at how we can explore new opportunities, encourage and support BOPA members to build links with community pharmacists to help them deliver a high standard of care to cancer patients.

### ***New Biosimilar Guidelines***

We will be consulting on a new position statement and implementation guidelines for biosimilar monoclonal antibodies which is going to be one of the most important changes facing NHS chemotherapy services over the next 24 months. We see oncology pharmacy teams as crucial to successful introduction of Biosimilar MABs and aim to support our members to meet the challenge.

### ***National Chemotherapy Board***

The next year sees BOPA chairing the national chemotherapy board, and Helen our immediate past chair has kindly agreed to stay involved and help with this. This is a group that brings together all professions specialist interest cancer groups and Royal College and UKONS cancer nurses See <https://www.rcr.ac.uk/clinical-oncology/faculty-structure/chemotherapy-board> We have lots of ideas for joint work we can do with the board.



***It's our Birthday***



As Helen told us all at the conference, next year is BOPA's 21st year and will be our 20th conference. The committee have some exciting ideas on how to mark this anniversary. We want to make the conference more accessible and affordable to a wider number of members and have the biggest attendance ever. So we would love to hear your thoughts / ideas on what you would like from the 20th anniversary conference in Glasgow. Netty is taking over from Mathew as our Symposium Planning Lead and we look to have a strong planning subcommittee in place in the New Year.

We'll be asking you all for your favourite BOPA memories and also to share experiences of how BOPA has helped, encouraged and inspired your practice. Kirstie at Succinct is already combing the archive photos and videos for us so we can look back and smile, (some of us dance floor regulars may have more to worry about than most!)

BOPA is all about its members; the committee all have work to do but we all share the responsibility to make our organisation a success so anyone who wishes to help and work with our committee(s) will be welcome.

### ***Happy Holidays***

That's it for now, given the time of year it just remains for me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope you survive the busy run-up to the holiday period and have time to relax with family and friends.

**Cheers All**

**Steve Williamson, BOPA Chair.**