



Minutes

APPGBC Bi-Monthly Officers' Meeting

Wednesday 13 July 2016, 10.00am to 11.00am, Room B, 1 Parliament Street

Attendees:

Sam Aldridge (Breast Cancer Care) (SA); Amelia Chong (APPG on Breast Cancer) (AC); Francesca de Munnich (APPG on Breast Cancer) (FDM); Philippa Whitford MP (PW).

Apologies:

Maria Caulfield MP; Jo Churchill MP; Sharon Hodgson MP; Craig Tracey MP.

1. Welcome and updates

- AC explained that the meeting would provide updates on breast cancer and build on previous conversations around the APPGBC's forthcoming events and theme for the year.
- AC informed attendees there was a new APPG on Blood Cancer. The cancer-related APPGs are due to meet on 19 July to discuss joint activity. PW suggested the name should be made clearer, to distinguish joint work from that of the APPG on Cancer.

2. APPGBC'S AGM

- AC outlined the proposed structure of the AGM on Wednesday 14 September, a week after Breast Cancer Now's wear it pink photocall.
- It was suggested that the AGM begins with the conducting of business in private, including the election of officers. This could be followed by networking and light refreshments, then an introduction to the year's theme, and question and answer session in the style of Question Time, with some questions being submitted in advance.
- As alluded to above, AC explained it would be good to launch the APPGBC's theme for the year at the AGM. It would be best to have as much of the next year sorted by the AGM as possible, as this should help recruit more members from both Houses.
- AC also recalled from the previous Bi-Monthly Officers' meeting that the officers felt it would be good to invite staff, as well as MPs and Peers to the AGM. Therefore, the AGM could also provide MPs and Peers with the opportunity to sign up to the APPGBC.
- AC proposed that a hashtag be used on the day and content such as photos and a blog post be generated for the APPGBC website, as part of the move to be more externally facing.

3. Breast Cancer Awareness Month reception

- AC informed attendees that the Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM) reception would take place on Wednesday 26 October.
- Once the theme has been decided, concrete plans for the reception can start to be made. It will obviously be important to distinguish it from the AGM.

4. This year's theme



- AC described the theme of inequalities that had been suggested in the draft proposal circulated ahead of the meeting. She explained that variations and inequalities in care was a 'hot topic' across the regions and nations.
- SA agreed that inequalities was an important area, which picked up on something different to what Breast Cancer Care and Breast Cancer Now were focusing on, such as secondary breast cancer.
- AC explained the APPGBC could treat the theme broadly or hone in on specific aspects of inequalities. Guest blogs on inequalities could also be written across the year to provide rich content for the website.
- PW felt that inequalities is a broad cancer issue that cuts across different types of cancers and not just breast cancer. PW therefore proposed the idea of having an event with all the cancer-related APPGs.
- PW also felt it was more important to think of the inequalities inherent socially in patients, such as economic background and ethnicity, rather than inequalities of treatments.
- SA felt it would be important to examine LGBT as an area of inequality. Breast Cancer Care have looked at the uptake of breast cancer screening among LGBT demographics. SA also thought it was worth considering trans individuals who might have a different relationship with their body.
- PW recognised that LGBT was an important issue but felt it was a more niche topic to explore later in the year. PW also mentioned identifying next of kin as an issue for some LGBT patients and the decision over which surgery to have.
- AC said the group may wish to reflect on age as an inequality, without it dominating. This was an area the APPGBC had produced two reports on during the previous Parliament. She welcomes thoughts on this.
- PW said that as well as answering questions about inequalities, the APPGBC should also identify what cannot be answered about inequalities.
- AC explained that it was not too late to explore other options for themes, if this is something the officers wanted to do.

ACTION:

- AC to bring up the idea of a joint inequalities event at the APPG Secretariat meeting and to clarify the difference between the APPGC and all the cancer groups coming together.
- All APPGBC officers to agree on the theme for the year, whether inequalities or something else.

5. The rest of the year

- AC explained that following the postponement of the new Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) appraisal process, NHS England has confirmed the new approach will be adopted later this month on 29 July. AC said the APPGBC should consider how it can engage in light touch activity on this issue, so it is seen as the voice of breast cancer in Parliament.
- PW said she would be happy to provide a quote on the new CDF, along with other officers of the APPGBC. AC recommended that parliamentary questions could be drafted on the CDF and an APPG-branded briefing produced.



- AC suggested other activities the APPGBC might want to engage in, such as hospital visits and research centre tours, as well as having a photo of the APPGBC officers taken at the wear it pink photocall on Wednesday 7 September. AC emphasised that it was important to keep the wider membership of the APPGBC engaged outside of events through, for example, circulating parliamentary questions and draft letters for local health bodies.
- PW suggested the APPGBC also look at how the quality of services are measured and how this is fed back. PW felt that the measurement of clinical performance is getting lost and this needed to be tackled to get rid of variability in treatment.
- The attendees considered meeting key stakeholders in Spring 2017 to understand the data the cancer dashboards were collecting and to assess if they were collecting the right sort of information. This would enable the APPGBC to set itself something to have an influence on, maybe in future years rather than straight away.
- PW also suggested that the APPGBC hold an inquiry, providing it with an output. This could be done once a year with evidence sessions held to either influence something being done or influence something that's going to be done in the future.
- PW said she would like to do an event on her experiences in Gaza, following on from the numerous articles she has written about her time there. PW said that this would make people consider how political decisions have an impact on health, particularly for people who do not often consider the situation in Palestine. AC suggested this event could take place in November 2016 in the style of a guest lecture.
- PW said it might be nice for the APPGBC to build on the prevention debate by having a further event on prevention with key speakers and members of the public attending. AC said the future of breast cancer might also be an area of interest for the APPGBC to engage with.

ACTION:

- Officers to decide with the Secretariat a work programme for the APPGBC for the rest of the year.

Secretariat
July 2016