



Minutes

APPGBC Bi-Monthly Officers' Meeting

Wednesday 22nd February, 3pm to 4pm, Room N, Portcullis House

Attendees:

Jo Churchill MP (JC), Sharon Hodgson MP (SH), Baroness Massey of Darwen (BM), Philippa Whitford MP (PW), Sam Nicholls (Office of Sharon Hodgson MP) (SN), Andy Glyde (Breast Cancer Care) (AG), Melanie Sturtevant (APPG on Breast Cancer) (MS); Francesca de Munnich (APPG on Breast Cancer) (FDM); Sarah Osborn (APPG on Breast Cancer).

Apologies:

Craig Tracey MP.

1. Inquiry

- MS outlined key upcoming dates related to the APPG's inquiry: the deadline for submissions of written evidence is 15 March, the first oral evidence session will take place on 22 March and the second oral evidence session will be on 25 April.
- Patient focus groups will be held in April in London and perhaps Manchester and Leeds. The Secretariat is currently in the process of recruiting a facilitator. JC asked about rural representation. MS said basing the focus groups in cities would keep costs down and hopefully people from rural areas would be able to attend, as well as responding to the wide call for written evidence.
- The manager of the National Screening Programme will be at the first oral evidence session, along with a representative from the British Society for Radiology. AG suggested also inviting Sara Bainbridge from Cancer Research UK and members of the UK Breast Cancer Group (UKBCG) to attend future oral evidence sessions
- BM said that the Council of Europe has done a similar inquiry that investigated geographical inequalities in cancer treatment and care.
- AG said that Breast Cancer Care would be able to help find people, including Clinical Nurse Specialists, to contribute to the oral evidence session on treatment and care, with a focus on the topics of secondary and living with and beyond breast cancer.
- PW explained she recently received data reports for the three Regional Cancer Networks in Scotland. MS asked whether the reports show a particular area that has really improved in comparison to others. PW said that these reports only show two years but it would be possible to find out.

Actions

- FDM and SO to draft tweets for Officers and other parliamentarians to promote the inquiry.
- SN to contact key MPs to ask them to tweet about the inquiry.
- MS to find out more about the European inquiry.
- PW to forward data reports for cancer networks in Scotland to MS.



2. Access to breast cancer drugs – meeting with NICE and pharma on 6 March 2017

- SN explained that Richard Erwin, the UK General Manager of Roche, and Erik Nordkamp, the UK Managing Director of Pfizer, have both confirmed they will attend the meeting. We are still waiting for confirmation from NICE and a representative from NHS England is still to be invited.
- In addition, Lord O’Shaughnessy has declined the invitation and Nicola Blackwood will be contacted. BM suggested that the APPG also invites Lord Hunt.
- It was agreed that SH will chair the meeting.
- Aside from the Officers, no MPs have confirmed their attendance so far – the Secretariat agreed to chase the offices of those that have been invited and ensure a few key campaigners and patients are invited as well.
- MS explained that the NICE decision on Kadcyra is expected the week commencing 6 March, with the public announcement a week later, and usually NICE decisions are announced on a Thursday. It is therefore unlikely that the outcome would have been announced by the time of this meeting, so it can be used as more of an opportunity to discuss issues with the appraisal system, rather than just focusing on individual breast cancer drugs.
- In terms of the structure, it was decided that each of the four key organisations should make a short speech – the pharmaceutical companies will go first, followed by NHS England and NICE who can respond and reflect on the system.
- SN highlighted that the meeting provides an opportunity to discuss cost-effectiveness – how can the Government work to keep pharmaceutical companies’ costs down, as well as the need for pharmaceutical companies to price responsibly? The focus of the meeting should be to find out which aspects of the process have caused these drugs to be rejected and what can be done to improve the process.
- MS said that patients could discuss how they have or haven’t engaged with NICE’s process, and why. This would be particularly timely due to NICE’s ongoing consultation on patient and public involvement.

Actions

- SN to send out invitations to NHS England, Tim Elliott from the Department of Health, Nicola Blackwood, and Lord Hunt.
- The Secretariat to chase up MP invitations and send invitations to key campaigners and patients.
- The Officers and Secretariat to agree a final agenda and running order for the meeting.
- The Secretariat to produce a briefing ahead of the meeting.
- The Secretariat to take minutes at the meeting and circulate with a list of action points for all concerned parties after the meeting.

3. Breast Density

- SH said that no more meetings are scheduled with Breast Density Matters, although they are keen to present to the APPG on Breast Cancer as a whole.

4. Joint APPG work on cancer drugs

- Six cancer-related APPGs are involved in planning a joint event on access to cancer drugs.



- The Secretariat for the APPG on Breast Cancer advised that the event be held during an afternoon or evening in June, rather than the initial suggestion of autumn.
- FDM suggested that the theme of the event could be 'one year on from the new Cancer Drugs Fund'.
- AG highlighted that a similar event was held last year as a roundtable – this format could be used this year.

5. Other

- BM invited the APPG to make use of rooms in the House of Lords if committee rooms in the House of Commons are unavailable.

Secretariat
February 2017