

Minutes of the meeting of the English Pharmacy Board - Open business

Minutes of the meeting held at 10.40am on 19th June 2019 in the Conference Suite, 1st floor, at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 66 East Smithfield, London E1W 1AW

Present

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| Claire Anderson  Sibby Buckle  Sandra Gidley  Brendon Jiang | Martin Astbury  Nadia Bukhari  Thorrun Govind  Hemant Patel |
| Mahendra Patel  Duncan Petty  Ash Soni  **In attendance** | Tracey Thornley  Andre Yeung |
| Ravi Sharma | Director for England |
| Robbie Turner  Paul Bennett  Alison Douglas  Amandeep Doll  Gareth Kitson  Jonathan Bisby  Heidi Wright  Adele Mott  Corrine Burns | Director for Pharmacy and Member Experience  Chief Executive  Governance and Business Manager  Regional Liaison Pharmacist  Professional Devlopment and Engagement Lead  Public Affairs Executive  Policy Lead for England  Clinical Fellow  RPS Correspondent, Pharmaceutical Journal |
| Yvonne Dennington  **Apologies**  David Carter | Business Manager England |

19/61 Welcome and Introductions

Ravi Sharma welcomed EPB members and staff to the meeting and asked all present to introduce themselves. Ravi gave a special welcome to the three new board members, Duncan Petty, Brendon Jiang and Andre Yeung and the three re-elected members, Tracey Thornley, Sibby Buckle and David Carter. He said the expertise and knowledge around the table will help to deliver the vision and mission for the RPS. Board members were asked to introduce themselves.

**19/62 Apologies**

Apologies were received from David Carter.

Nadia Bukhari was present for the elections of Chair, Vice Chair and Assembly members but left before the item on Sectoral Places was discussed.

**19/63 Declarations of Interest**

**The English Pharmacy Board noted** paper 19.06/EPB.03. Board members were reminded to send in any amendments to their declarations to Yvonne Dennington and were also asked to state, in the interests of best practice, any declared interest at the start of the discussion to which it relates. Mahendra Patel submitted an update to his declarations.

**19/64** **Election of Chair**

Ravi Sharma, took the chair for this item.

Ravi informed the Board that two nominations had been received for the position of Chair after following due process as set out in Appendix E of the Regulations, calling for nominations in advance of the meeting. The following nominations were received:-

Claire Anderson Nominated by Tracey Thornley

Seconded by Nadia Bukhari

Hemant Patel Nominated by Thorrun Govind

Seconded by Sibby Buckle

Both candidates accepted their nomination and had no further declarations of interest other than those contained in paper 19.06.EPB.03. Voting then took place as per Appendix E of the Regulations.

The candidate with who received the majority of votes and who will become Chair is **Claire Anderson**.

The Chair’s written address is attached as Appendix A.

Claire Anderson, the Chair of the English Pharmacy Board, took the Chair for the election of Vice Chair.

Claire thanked the Board for their support in electing her as Chair and said she was humbled and privileged to be elected and is looking forward to working with members of the board who have many talents and strengths and together they can move the agenda forward.

**19/65** **Election of Vice Chair**

Claire Anderson as the newly elected Chair, took the chair for this item.

The Chair explained the process for the nomination of Vice-Chair in accordance with Appendix E of the Regulations and informed the Board that one nomination had been received in advance of the meeting from Martin Astbury, proposed by Mahendra Patel and seconded by Ash Soni, and she asked for further nominations.

No further nominations were received, therefore **Martin Astbury** was affirmed as the Vice Chair of the English Pharmacy Board.

Martin thanked the Board for their support of his nomination. He said he looked forward to working with the Chair and was there to hold the Chair and Executive to account.

**19/66. Appointment of three English Pharmacy Board members to the Assembly**

Ravi Sharma, Director for England, took the chair for this item.

The English Pharmacy Board noted paper 19.06.EPB.06.

As Martin Astbury has been voted as Vice Chair, there is one additional place on the Assembly, totalling **three** places and not two as per the paper. All places are for a two year tenure.

Nominations were called in accordance with Appendix C of the Regulations. The first two nominations below were received in advance of the meeting, the other three were received at the meeting. Five nominations were received in total.

**Nomination Proposer Seconder**

Nadia Bukari Claire Anderson Tracey Thornley

David Carter Self nominated Nadia Bukhari

Sandra Gidley Self nominted Martin Astbury

Sibby Buckle Hemant Patel Thorrun Govind

Hemant Patel Martin Astbury Ash Soni

The five nominees were invited to make a speech of no more than two minutes. All nominees present made a two minute speech.

A secret ballot was held and board members were asked to cast up to three votes for three Assembly members.

**David Carter** and **Sandra Gidley** were appointed to the Assembly for a two year tenure. There was a tie for the 3rd place between Sibby Buckle, Nadia Bukhari and Hemant Patel. Hemant Patel withdrew his nomination at this stage.

A further ballot was held between Sibby Buckle and Nadia Bukhari. **Sibby Buckle** received the majority of votes and was declared a member of the Assembly for a two year tenure.

The successful candidates present were asked to make a short speech.

Sibby thanked Board members for their votes and said that it meant a lot to her and she was looking forward to serving the RPS.

Sandra thanked the board for their vote of confidence in her.

Claire took over the Chair at this point and called for a 15 minute recess.

**19/67 Statutory Item: Sectoral Places**

This item remains a statutory item at every June board meeting to discuss the issue of removal of sectoral places and whether the EPB can continue to properly fulfil it duties with its current composition. The English Pharmacy Board noted paper 19.06.EPB.07 and appendix.

The Chair introduced this item, giving some background to the issue, and saying that every year since the removal of sectoral places the Board has decided to continue with this decision.

Although the Chair of the Industrial Pharmacists’ Forum and the Hospital Expert Advisory Group have a standing invitation to attend the EPB open business meetings, the EPB should endeavour to make more use of these groups.

It was highlighted that the EPB gets criticised for being too community pharmacy focused, therefore not having representation from hospital and industry is a huge gap. To have representation from all sectors is very difficult as the different roles in the profession continue to expand. To co-opt a person into specific sectors undermines the democratic process of the elections.

There was further discussion regarding having a more formal input from the Advisory Groups into the EPB and HEAG is to be requested to be more consistent when sending a representative to the EPB and the Chair is to attend the HEAG meetings.

It was suggested that we should build on the Community Pharmacy Standards work developing a Community Pharmacy Expert Advisory Group, this was first mooted some years ago but has not come to fruition.

There will be no request to Assembly to change the EPB decision regarding having no sectoral places in the EPB elections.

**Action 1:** Request HEAG to send a consistent member of HEAG to attend the EPB.

**Action 2:** Look into developing a Community Pharmacy Expert Advisory Group

**19/68 Close of meeting**

The meeting closed at 11.55am

**Dates of next meetings**

EPB working day – 9th October 2019

EPB meeting – 10th October 2019

Dates for 2020 meetings will be available after approval by the Assembly at their July meeting.

***Board Members please note:*** *All of the above dates are to be diarised across all EPB members. Board meeting dates are firm dates but Working Days will only be used at the discretion of the Chair and the Director for England.*

**Claire Anderson**

**Election statement EPB chair**

At this very exciting time for pharmacy the RPS needs to be sure that we can support our members as they navigate major changes in the structure, integration and delivery of NHS services, all at a time of great political uncertainty. Community colleagues, the front door of our profession, face many challenges and the RPS needs to provide them with support and advocate for them to be part of the change. I would be privileged if my fellow board members support me to be chair of the EPB for the next two years. I am unable to do this alone and plan to adopt an inclusive approach to effectively use all of your talents, skills, experiences and networks to work with the RPS staff to support and engage with our members.

All pharmacists are working under pressure with fewer resources as the NHS goes through unprecedented changes. We need to listen to our members and ensure that they have all the support they need. While having a national leadership role the RPS must also continue to build on our local engagement and the EPB needs to work more closely with LPFs, regional pharmacists and ambassadors, as well as other pharmacist special interest groups representative groups and employers.

The RPS is unique in representing all pharmacists from across all sectors and supporting them as they face massive organisational, economic and technological changes. Pharmacy is on the lips of NHS England, the health professional Royal Colleges and also in the media like never before. We are starting to get the professional recognition we deserve, but we need to continue to strengthen the value of pharmacists and act as representatives for the profession.  As chair of EPB I would ensure that the RPS in England builds on our successful systems leadership work, ensuring that pharmacists are supported in delivering effective and integrated patient care. As we formulate the RPS in England’s primary care network/integrated care system visionary thought-leadership, my priority will be for us to work agilely to provide effective support to pharmacists from every sector to be an integral part of all primary care networks.

While making sure that we keep, support and increase our community and primary care members we need to work more closely with hospital pharmacists and our hospital pharmacist advisory group, ensuring the EPB is in tune with developments in hospital pharmacy and how hospital colleagues are embracing the integrated care agenda. We must ensure that pharmaceutical scientist and industrial members all feel part of the RPS and that we consult them and use their talents.

I also want the EPB to fully support the RPS in England to deliver on our business plan for the next year, first ensuring our diabetes policy is implemented then going on to support the development of our cardiovascular disease policy. We will also need to be involved in supporting the overprescribing/deprescribing agenda. While supporting medicines management and safety, we must also support our members in their role in public health, wellbeing and prevention. I will ensure that providing evidence for the value of pharmacists is central to all our policy development.

We need to constantly look to the future, and I am excited about creating our strategy around futuristic healthcare and education taking into account developments in AI and Pharmacogenomics, as laid out in the recent Topol review. I have been privileged to co-lead the RPS in England’s innovator’s forum and should like to ensure that this approach to listening to members, supporting and encouraging the development of new approaches continues.

My vision is that the students I am teaching will have a bright future in our wonderful profession. I want the EPB to work with the membership directorate to ensure that all students become members and to better support early career pharmacists. If elected I will ensure that we continue to work more closely with BPSA. We also need to support all pharmacists in their professional development. I look forward to working with the education directorate on the development of the foundation programme and the redevelopment of faculty and advanced practice recognition

So why me? I am an academic pharmacist, but my teaching and research focus is on community pharmacy and primary care. I am also passionate about transforming pharmacy education both in UK and internationally through my work with FIP and my UK Aid funded project in Kenya. Throughout my career I have been passionate in producing the evidence for new roles for pharmacists from health promotion, EHC and sexual health through to flu vaccinations, prescribing and more recently GP and care home pharmacists. I am a systems leader, and a strategic critical thinker. I understand the profession and the wider health and social care system.

While being collegiate in my approach I am not afraid to stand up for what I believe in. I have wide ranging, high level, national and international contacts in policy and practice in pharmacy and beyond. As a leading professor in pharmacy practice and policy I am a confident speaker and media presenter. I have previous experience of chairing multi- professional committees. I have recently stepped down as head of department which has freed up a lot of time and my university will fully support me with the all of the time needed to work with you all to do justice to this important role.

If elected chair I will work tirelessly with you all and the RPS staff to make sure that our wonderful profession receives the respect it deserves from patients, the public, the NHS and other healthcare professionals.