

Notes of Parkside Family Practice
Patient Participation Group AGM
Tuesday 21st June at 7.00pm held at Woodley Surgery

Attendance

David, Steve, Chris, Kate, Yasmena, Judy, Sheena, John, Bill, Leaza

Dr Burchardt - for a while at the beginning of the meeting to tell us about research in which she is involved.

Apologies

There were no apologies

Dr Burchardt's Talk

Dr Burchardt updated us on her recent involvement with research. The local area for this is Oxford. She is involved in 'Big Data Research'. Patients are anonymous and are known by their NHS number. 1800 GP Practices are involved and the data is stored in Oxford. Data from 35,000,000 patients on the EMIS system (This is the electronic data system used by the NHS) are coded within their practices. These codes are used to enable certain cohorts of patients to be anonymously grouped together. This has been used since 1990.

When patients are asked if they would be prepared to participate in a trial for something it is usually the healthier patients that respond so making the results not so useful.

When large numbers of patients are surveyed the healthy and the less well patients are included so the results are more meaningful. Wealthy and more deprived areas of the country can be included so risk factors can be found. The risk is coded Q so cancer, covid, ethnicity and postcode can be factored in.

There is also research into women with cancer and whether they had taken HRT previously. Motor Neurone Disease has been found to be more common than thought. It is very difficult to diagnose so it is only after all other avenues have been eliminated that a diagnosis is finally made. This means it is far more advanced when finally diagnosed and is less likely to have any beneficial treatments available. Using large numbers of patients could help to see risk factors. Lung cancer is also difficult to diagnose early. Some non- smokers have lung cancer so again risk factors from big data sets could help identify possible causes across large parts of the population.

It has been shown that an increase in white platelets could be a factor in developing a cancer. Dr Burchardt was thanked for her update on the research taking place and for giving up her time.

After which she left the meeting to attend another commitment.

The AGM then continued.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

Review of the Past Year

Another year working with the restrictions and concerns for Covid-19. The PPG records our thanks and admiration for the staff in the practice for the ways in which they have dealt with the pandemic, running an efficient vaccination process and changes to delivering services remotely. We are aware that some of the changes to the ways in which appointments and consultations have been made may not go back to pre-pandemic form. We welcome the new staff appointments and new clinical practices.

The PPG membership changed in 2021-2. Peter was succeeded briefly by Marion and then Sheena as interim chair. William and John were welcomed as new members to the PPG.

PPG welcomed Leaza as the new Practice manager in June 2021 at the AGM and took the opportunity to look hard at the purpose and function of PPG. In August 2021 we agreed we should be more responsive and engage patients and the Practice more including in patient education. Leaza has identified the patient reference group and a patient survey is planned for the end of 2022. A notice inviting new members will be placed in the Woodley Herald in autumn 2022. We don't have a similar vehicle for Earley and Reading patients but information on the PPG on the website and notice boards will help.

We were pleased to be involved in wider issues. Neighbouring PPGs have advised on how they work and shared invitations to events that they have run. We hope to reciprocate next year. David represented the group at the Wokingham Area forum in September 2021 and in March 2022 Dr Burchardt involved us in discussions on her PhD research.

We held 4 ordinary meetings by zoom in 21-22 and finally got to meet again in person on 12 April 2022 where we had a conducted tour of the upgraded facilities in Green Rd.

I am grateful to all of the members of PPG for their continuing support, feedback and ideas for the future of the group. In particular thanks are due to Kate for recording our meetings accurately and getting the notes to us so speedily.

Sheena (Interim Chair)

Election of Chair

Sheena Proposed by David, seconded by Chris, carried unanimously.

Election of Vice Chair

Bill proposed by John, seconded by Yasmena, carried unanimously.

Election of Note Taker

Kate proposed by Sheena, seconded by Bill, carried unanimously.

All current members of the committee were prepared to continue their membership.

Date of the next AGM to be advised nearer the time.

The meeting closed at 7.42pm

