

## **Annual Report from the Chair**

Welcome to our 2016 Conference, and an extra warm welcome if you are new to PMG! We have had another productive year as PMG continues to thrive and grow...

## **Update for 2015-2016**

### **Annual Conference**

Organising the annual conference is undoubtedly the biggest task in the PMG calendar, and it's always a balancing act between venue capability and the expectations of delegates and sponsors. We take your feedback seriously, and we hope that the changes this year meet with your approval.

As I write, we have over 500 delegates registered for the event and, as usual, the exhibition space is sold out. We are extremely grateful to BES Rehab, Consolor, Helping Hand, Ottobock, Quantum Rehab, RMS, Specialised Orthotic Services, Sumed and V-Trak for providing direct sponsorship to pay for the extras that help make the event so enjoyable. Thank you for contributing to the more fun side of conference!

We are conscious that getting funding for training is becoming harder than ever, and we take this opportunity to acknowledge the support of the many companies who sponsor delegates to attend PMG every year. In addition, because promoting the education of PMG members continues to be our key objective, for 2016 we have increased the number of conference bursaries to 30. As previously, the bursars will write articles for the PMG journal.

Enormous gratitude, as always, goes to Jo McConnell and the team who work so hard to provide a balanced mix of clinical, research, and political content, as well as the social activities. Sadly, Jo will be stepping down in 2017, but we are delighted that Helen Critten-Rourke has agreed to take on the role of PMG conference chair for 2018, when we will return to Wales (where it all began) for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Motorpoint Arena in Cardiff.

## **Membership**

Membership of PMG continues to grow, with numbers currently around 1400. There was something of a surge when many community-based therapists were recruited at extra training events this year (see Education & Training section below). We wholeheartedly welcome our community colleagues to PMG, as we can learn much from each other.

## **Online Journal**

The PMG online journal was re-designed for our new website launch in February 2016 with a new International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) issued by the British Library. This endorsement indicates that our journal continues to provide excellent content for our members. Please don't hesitate to submit an article – it's a fantastic CPD opportunity too.

## **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)**

One year into being a CIO, you probably haven't noticed any difference – that is the way it should be! As some of you may recall, the main tangible changes were in relation to the appointment of trustees, as well as length of service. These changes come into effect this year, and some will need to be ratified at the AGM, so come along if you wish to use your vote.

## **Strategy & Policy**

Our developing relationship with NHS England (NHSE) has been a frustrating start-stop during 2015/16. The National Wheelchair Leadership Alliance, whilst still officially in existence, saw little real progress made. The focus has now shifted towards Personal Health Budgets (PHBs) and wheelchairs, with a new post being created by NHSE to 'reshape wheelchair services'. The sceptics may raise their eyebrows, but it does mean that wheelchairs are still on the government agenda. We will have an opportunity to catch up with NHSE during this year's proceedings: the parallel session PS6 is devoted entirely to PHBs, and the final plenary presentation by NHSE's head of pricing development is all about tariffs.

With such short timeframes given to consultations on political activities, it has often been difficult for the PMG Strategy & Policy team to respond in a timely manner. The Executive Committee has therefore decided to absorb this responsibility collectively.

### **Education & Training**

For the first time ever, PMG was offered complimentary presence at the OT show (November 2015) and, jointly with the National Wheelchair Managers' Forum, at Naidex (April 2016). Training was provided to professionals at both events.

These innovations proved very successful, with more than 70 signing up to be members of PMG at the OT show, and the joint training sessions being the most popular at the Naidex professionals' day. We will look to develop our education & training programme further in the coming year(s).

### **External Advisor**

It was with sadness this year that we said goodbye to Ros Ham as PMG's External Advisor (EA). Ros stood down early due to increasingly demanding personal circumstances. This EA role is, we feel, key within the Executive Committee, and we are therefore delighted that Linda Marks agreed to step back into the breach in an interim capacity. We are further delighted that Henry Lumley has agreed to take on the EA role following his retirement at the end of 2016.

### **Finance**

Pam Harper, our PMG Treasurer, continues to keep a vigilant eye on our resources, this year opening a fourth bank account in order to spread financial risk. It was also agreed to combine Finance and Executive Committee meetings, as most financial matters require full trustee endorsement, which meant we were duplicating cost and time unnecessarily.

A task for the year ahead will be to investigate PMG running its own payroll system but, in the meantime, we are ever grateful to Barend ter Haar and BES Rehab for providing this facility.

Pam will provide you with a more detailed financial report separately.

### **PMG Office & Administration**

The PMG office continues to provide a cost effective base in Exeter for the administration team. We must emphasise that the wheels of PMG most definitely turn faster and more efficiently because of the management by Oli, and the conference and events organisation by Ffion. There may be a need for further admin support going forward; how this is best implemented will be considered by the new executive.

### **Publications & Marketing**

This year saw the launch of our new website. I'm sure you'll agree that it looks super-professional and, with lots of additional 'behind the scenes' functionality, it has made management of our online presence both easier and more cost-effective. Huge thanks to James Foy for his hard work in ensuring it all went to plan; it also came in under budget!

### **Research**

The PMG research team continues to assess applications for funding, and there are now 15 completed studies, one of which is being presented as a Free Paper at this year's conference (FP1). A further five PMG funded studies are still in progress, with one new application this year.

### **Committee changes and Strategic Priorities**

Our AGM this year sees the first changes in office as a result of PMG now being a CIO. The executive committee took the opportunity in April 2016 to combine this change with a strategic look at how PMG operates, and how we might streamline operations for the future. As a result, we are proposing alterations to the PMG committee structure. There is a diagram of the new structure below, and we will explain more at the AGM.

### **Leaving the Executive Committee are:**

Clare Canale  
Kirsty-Anne Cutler  
Paul Dryer  
Alison Johnston  
Henry Lumley  
Joanne McConnell

### Standing for the new Executive Committee

Helen Critten-Rourke (H C-R)

Susan Gold (SG)

Diane Hargrove (DH)

Pam Harper (PH)

Henry Lumley (HL) - from January 2017

Linda Marks (LM) - to end December 2016

David Punt (DP)

### Adieu from the Chair...

It is with genuine sadness that I must now step down after six years as Chair of PMG. I have enjoyed (almost!) every minute of it, and have met some amazing people (and made life-long friends) along the way. Thanks to my employer, Leckey, for supporting me in the role.

It's really more of an adieu, as I have agreed to assist with editing the articles for our online journal and, in due course, take on the role of editor.

### And finally...

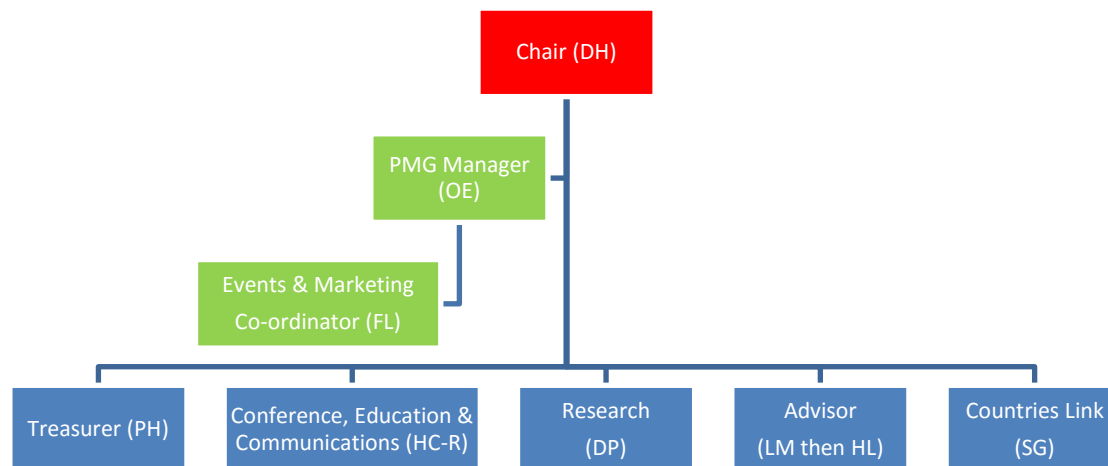
The hard work we have done as a team over the last six years has paid off, and PMG is in a very strong position to continue forward. I leave you in the more-than-capable hands of Diane and her new executive.

PMG cannot exist without our members, sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers, employees and employers. To you all, a final hearty and heartfelt thanks from me.

Enjoy your conference!

*Clare*

**Clare Canale**  
**PMG Chair**  
**July 2016**



Proposed new PMG Executive Structure 2016