



# INSTITUTE OF AGEING & HEALTH – WEST MIDLANDS

## CHRISTMAS E-NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020



Dear member

### *Season's Greetings to you all*

Although we have been very quiet over the last year it has been momentous and provides the basis for the IAH to play a more significant role in the future.

As many of you know we lost our grant funding in 2018 and our office in the Community Trust in 2019 due to the financial pressures in the NHS. We have now moved to Aston University and in July appointed Professor George Tadros as our Chair; this is the first medical chair we have had for some years. We are also continuing our relationship with the NHS and we are also doing more on line and some of you may have read our “blogs” on the web site.

We have been considering how these changes will impact on the way forward, but at least, we now believe that we can again play an important role in promoting good practice and research into the needs of older people. We intend to have our first educational meeting in early February 2021, i.e. before the next Regional BGS meeting.

I am also delighted that Bernie Keenan has agreed to become the new journal editor, so please, lots of articles. The Journal and newsletters will be free on line, but there will be a charge for a printed version.

The executive committee includes Professor George Tadros (Chair), Professor Zoe Wyrko (Deputy Chair), Bernie Keenan, Margaret Harries, Greta Alleyne, Mike Marshall, Tom Storrow, Professor Joanne Rybacka-Brooke and Jeanette Lane.

I would like to express my gratitude to our former trustees, Paul Vaughan, Dr Ruth Pearce and Sue Lillyman, who kept the IAH running and our active relationship with the Royal College of Nurses; but in particular to Jeanette who was moved to a new role in the Community Trust and has continued to supply administrative support as a trustee in her own time.

Please let us know what you would like the IAH to continue to do or any new directions we should consider.

Our blessings and good wishes for an enjoyable healthy and successful festive season and New Year.

***Dr Peter Mayer – Honorary President***



## Trustees

### **Tom Storrow**

I am originally from St Helens in Lancashire, although I have lived around the Midlands for over forty years.

My background is in NHS management and I have been a senior hospital manager, a Trust Chief Executive and finally Chairman of an NHS Foundation Trust. In the midst of all that, I had 15 years working for a consultancy company, ending up as Managing Partner and then Senior Partner.

I'm now semi-retired, but still work part-time as a Course Director with The Leadership Trust. I have been a member of the IAH Executive for about a year now and am also a Trustee and former Chair of a Birmingham housing charity. I hope that I can bring some of that governance, leadership and strategic experience to the table to assist IAH going forward.

### **Jeanette Lane**

I have been with the IAH since 2001. I was administrator for the IAH for 17 years and I enjoyed working for the charity so much that I am now Honorary Secretary. This means I am continuing my administrative support, albeit on a voluntary basis. I also remain working for the NHS as team administrator for the Medicines Management department at Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust.

Well, what a year! I hope you have all managed to stay safe and well. Overall, I consider that I am one of the very lucky ones; my experience of COVID-19 to date, has not been anything particularly out of the ordinary and none of my immediate family have been ill. However, it has had an effect on me, as I'm sure it has on most people and it will have an impact on the way I view things in the future.

So, notice the good in the world and if you can, do something to help, however small; if you need help, ask for it – we all need help sometimes and lastly, with the new vaccine, there is an end in sight and we will hopefully all feel reconnected again soon.



### **Margaret Harries**

I am originally from the North East. After 43 years in the NHS I have recently retired and returned. I have been a member of the West Midlands Institute of Ageing Health for most of my career. As well as the educational events, I have benefitted from the insights and vision of many of its members. I am now a Trustee.

I have been the Lead Nurse for Older Adults and Dignity at University Hospitals Birmingham and I led the Dignity and Older People's Champions Programme. I currently work with Healthcare for Older People and the Dementia and Delirium team, supporting a Positive Approach to Care. I completed my Masters in Gerontology at Keele many years ago, so was delighted more recently to be part of the Older Persons Fellowship at Kings College London; which aimed to drive clinical excellence, innovation and quality improvement in care of older people.

***Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and hoping to be able to see more of you in 2021***

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**Dr Peter Mayer**

What a year a world turned upside down and our clinicians submerged in the response to the COVID- 19 crisis. I write as the first vaccine is approved in the UK. I did manage 2 weeks in Madeira with old friends Rod and Gilly Brooks and we got the last flight back before this lockdown. I am still lead governor at the Birmingham Community Trust so get a safe view of the marvellous work all staff are doing and the rapid changes in service delivery models I am particularly impressed by our vice chair Zoe leading on the award-winning OPAL service. I was in an SHA team meeting the shadow care minister looking at primary and Community services which for me emphasised the need for teams across organisational boundaries.



Ah, TEAMS WEBEX and ZOOM which have changed our way of communicating!!

Please keep in touch and contribute updates about yourselves and articles for our journal and I hope by next Xmas we will be more visible.

Could retired geriatricians tell me if they are still members of the BGS and are they happy with the fees charged for retired members? Please contact me via the 'Contact Page' on our website.



**Citation from Abu Dhabi**

We are delighted to welcome Professor George Tadros to ACPN. Professor Tadros will join our expert team as a Consultant and Geriatric Psychiatrist. He comes to ACPN from the UK with two decades of in-depth experience in the field of Psychiatry. He has extensive experience in medical practice and academia. He developed an award-winning liaison psychiatry model in the UK and is recognized for his clinical work and service

developments. He was awarded the Bronze National Clinical Excellence Award in 2012 and Silver National Clinical Excellence Award in 2016.

George remains our Chair and now foreign correspondent.



***Book Review and Launch: "Dementia in Prison: An Ethical Framework to Support Research, Practice and Prisoners" Professor Joanne Brooke, IAH Trustee, Director of Centre for Social Care, Health and Related Research and Director of International Dementia and Culture Collaborative, Birmingham City University***

The book *Dementia in Prison* has been written for healthcare professionals, prison staff and all of those who support prisoners. This book is divided into three sections, which commences with an overview of healthcare services within prison settings and the need to develop these to support an aging prison population, followed by an exploration of both the human rights of prisoners with dementia, and ethical considerations of healthcare in the prison setting, including the current support for prisoners with dementia, alongside an overview of ethical processes to enable the development of further research to support older prisoners and those with dementia.

A full description and references will be placed on the IAH website shortly.

**Virtual book launch: Wednesday 24th March 2020, 1 pm to 2.30 pm**

**Free and open to all, book a place through Eventbrite:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/book-launch-dementia-in-prison-tickets-133110722755>



The Royal College of Physicians have produced some helpful advice and guidance on discharging COVID-19 positive patients to care home. For more information, please follow the link below:

[https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/education-practice/advice/advice-and-guidance-discharging-covid-19-positive-patients-care-homes?utm\\_source=Membership](https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/education-practice/advice/advice-and-guidance-discharging-covid-19-positive-patients-care-homes?utm_source=Membership)



***Date for your diary***

**Ageing well in Birmingham – Thursday 4 February at 6.30pm**

**Zoom online event**

The Institute of Ageing and Health joins forces with The Lunar Society with a distinguished panel led by Richard Kirby, CEO of Birmingham Community Health NHS Foundation Trust. Confirmed speakers include Professor Zoe Wyrko, Vice Chair, IAH and ICS lead on older people's services; Danielle Oum Chair Walsall NHS Trust and BSMHT FT and Health Watch; Mustak Mirza service user governor BSMHT.

Details will be published and bookings open in the New Year.



If you have an article that you would like us to consider publishing in our journal *Ageing & Health*, please contact [jeanette.lane@bhamcommunity.nhs.uk](mailto:jeanette.lane@bhamcommunity.nhs.uk)



### **A final note from our Vice Chair, Professor Zoe Wyrko**

Well, what a year 2020 has been, and I have to start by apologising for not being the sort of Vice-Chair I hoped to be! I was really excited to join the IAH, and George and I had a brilliant meeting with so many great ideas for the future..... but then COVID-19 hit us.

As a UHB geriatrician who works within the Emergency Department and Acute Medical Unit, as well as virtually with the ambulance service, it's been a rather busy year, and at times has been all hands to the deck, especially now it looks as if we are entering wave 3. But the vaccine is in the foreground now rather than just a distant dream, so maybe by next Christmas there will be a type of normal again?

But we don't want everything to go back to the way it was before – I also have a non-clinical hat where I work with colleagues from surrounding Trusts and local authorities across Birmingham and Solihull as part of the STP 'Ageing Well' work stream. The pandemic necessitated us accelerating projects that were already in the advanced planning stages to integrate Health and Social care across the City, to better support people to receive the care they need at home rather than needing admission to hospital. There is more work to be done, but the success of taking a 'Home First' perspective has already had a huge impact, and I look forward to talking about this more on the joint event with The Lunar Society on 4 February 2021.

My work is taking me to pastures new in the New Year (more about that in future newsletters) and with that I hope to have a little more time to dedicate to the IAH.



  
*Merry  
Christmas*  
and **2021**  
*Happy New Year*



**INSTITUTE OF AGEING & HEALTH – WEST MIDLANDS**  
**Web: [iah-wmids.org.uk](http://iah-wmids.org.uk)**

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