**Lucia Berry Statement of Support on application to join the Board of Trustees- September 2024**

**Statement in support:**

*To the POGP Board of Trustees,*

I am delighted to present my application for the position of Board of Trustees and Chair at the Pelvic Obstetric and Gynaecology Physiotherapy (POGP) charity. With a robust background in pelvic health physiotherapy and significant leadership experience within both clinical and academic settings, I am well-positioned to contribute effectively to the strategic direction and governance of POGP.

**Professional Background and Contributions**

*Clinical Experience and Leadership*

My career in pelvic health physiotherapy spans several years, marked by key positions such as Clinical Lead Pelvic Health Physiotherapist at both Imperial College NHS Trust and Barnet Hospital. This role has allowed me to bridge clinical practice and NHS management, providing comprehensive insights into both patient care and healthcare system management. My work has involved leading teams, developing clinical protocols, and ensuring high standards of patient care.

At Evelina Children's Hospital, I hold an honorary contract as an advanced practice physiotherapist with the paediatric urology team. This role underscores my commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration and advanced clinical practice, contributing to improved outcomes for young patients with pelvic floor dysfunction.

*Academic and Educational Leadership*

As a Senior Lecturer at Brunel University, I pioneered the first Advanced Clinical Practice (Pelvic Health) MSc. This innovative interprofessional degree programme highlights my dedication to advancing education in pelvic health, fostering excellence among future physiotherapists, and promoting evidence-based practice. My role involved curriculum development, teaching, and mentoring students, thereby shaping the next generation of pelvic health specialists.

Previously, I served as the secretary for the National Conference Organising Committee in its formative years, a role that I held for three years. Additionally, my tenure as a member and brief chair of the Education Subcommittee provided me with valuable experience in educational strategy and organisational development. In my final role, I held the position of Communications Subcommittee Chair and Public Relations Officer, which I held for four years. This experience gives me an excellent understanding of the organisation, its values, and its operational dynamics. It has equipped me with a comprehensive perspective on both the internal and external communications crucial for advancing the mission of POGP.

*Advisory and Transformational Contributions*

My advisory role to NHS England’s National Transformation Team has been pivotal in securing increased funding for physiotherapists within the UK, specifically as part of the Perinatal Pelvic Health Services. This initiative aligns with my commitment to advancing the profession and enhancing the availability of specialised care for women. My involvement in the NICE guidelines for the conservative management of pelvic floor dysfunction further demonstrates my influence in shaping national standards and best practices.

*Private Sector and Innovative Projects*

In the private sector, I have worked at the Women’s Wellness Centre on Fulham Road for seven years, delivering high-quality pelvic health services. Additionally, I supported the development of LuluBaby Antenatal Classes, a project driven by a group of professional mothers, which provided valuable prenatal education until its conclusion.

I have also developed private education courses in point-of-care ultrasound for the assessment of pelvic floor dysfunction and contributed to the development of a paper on the scope of practice for physiotherapists in this area. These initiatives reflect my commitment to expanding the capabilities of physiotherapists and integrating innovative diagnostic tools into practice.

**Vision for POGP**

As a trustee and prospective chair, my vision for POGP is to further its mission by:

* Enhancing educational opportunities and resources for pelvic health physiotherapists.
* Promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and research in pelvic health.
* Advocating for increased funding and recognition of the vital role physiotherapists play in pelvic health.
* Expanding public awareness of pelvic health issues and the importance of physiotherapy in managing these conditions.

I am confident that my experience, passion, and strategic insight will make a valuable contribution to the POGP board. I am eager to bring my knowledge and leadership skills to this esteemed charity, ensuring it continues to thrive and positively impact the field of pelvic health physiotherapy.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how I can contribute to POGP’s continued success.

Sincerely,

Lucia Berry