

## **Wales Area Report – Autumn 2018**

There are currently 18 members in the Wales area. The group has recently changed the format of its meetings to 2 full days twice a year, as members found that video conferencing meetings were not very effective and difficult to engage with.

A study day organised in South Wales for March 2018 was very well attended and included an extremely well received presentation by Jilly Bond on bladder pain syndrome. It highlighted how we as Pelvic Health Physiotherapists can make a big difference to this client group.

A representative from Bulkamid also attended and gave an insightful presentation on how this urethral bulking agent works. This was of great benefit as more members are finding that their consultants have started to use this product.

The group also said farewell to 2 members who have gone on to retire. Former area representatives, Cathy George and Rebecca Mellor. The group would like to wish them all the very best in their well-deserved retirement.

Members have also been working closely with the Welsh Government on a number of Task and Finish groups. Gillian McCabe has been an integral part of the group that put together the “Report of the Welsh Task and Finish Group to Review the Use of Vaginal Synthetic Mesh Tape and Sheets for Stress Urinary Incontinence and Pelvic Organ Prolapse”.

This has highlighted the integral work that Pelvic Health Physiotherapists do and should be supported to continue to do in future. Following the publication of the report Health Minister for Wales, Vaughn Gethin, has signposted £1m for the provision of Pelvic Health services across Wales.

Angharad Roberts and I are currently sitting on the Task and Finish group for faecal incontinence and outlining a pathway for patients with bowel dysfunction. The report is due for completion in September 2018.

The next meeting is due to be held in North Wales in November and will focus on bowel dysfunction.

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