

Presidents and vice-presidents of POGP

Introduction

The Executive Committee of Pelvic, Obstetric and Gynaecological Physiotherapy (POGP) is made up of honorary officers, executive officers and members. The positions and roles of the officers are clearly defined in the POGP constitution (POGP 2013), and many are common to any executive structure found in a voluntary organization. In addition, as a recognized professional network of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) and bound by an affiliation agreement, there are certain mandatory requirements within the POGP constitution that fulfil the conditions set down in the *Professional Networks Handbook* (CSP 2012, Appendix 2). These dictate the need for certain executive positions within the Executive Committee, i.e. a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer. The CSP also ask that an accountant is included among the honorary officer posts. Historically, our organization has also chosen to have the honorary and non-executive posts of a president and vice-presidents.

The POGP constitution states the following:

“These shall be the president, vice-presidents and the accountant: [. . .] A president shall be invited to take up the office by the Executive Committee and shall be a person eminent in their profession who by virtue of their professional standing and interest in its work is likely to further the objectives of the Association.”

President

Historically, the Executive Committee has always invited people from outside the physiotherapy profession to hold the post of president. For example, past incumbents have included Dame Josephine Barnes, an eminent obstetrician and gynaecologist, and Professor Linda Cardozo, Professor of Urogynaecology and Consultant Gynaecologist at King's College Hospital, London. The position is held for 3 years, and if invited to do so by the Executive, the president can continue to hold the post for a further 3 years. Since Professor Cardozo retired from office, the position of president has been vacant. The Executive considered this to be the

wisest policy while ACPWH revised its objectives and considered a new title.

The president may be asked to take the chair by the Executive Committee, and along with the vice-presidents, may also be invited to all important functions of the Association.

Vice-presidents

Traditionally, the vice-presidents of the Association have always been appointed from its full and associate membership, which means that they have been chartered physiotherapists.

In 2008, which was the sixtieth anniversary of ACPWH, a new vice-presidential role and election process were launched. The vice-presidents are now seen as ambassadors for the Association. They may be invited to act as a spokesperson on behalf of POGP, or represent the organization in the absence of the chairman, vice-chairman or president. Nominations from the membership are submitted to the Executive. Any members who have rendered distinguished service, or made outstanding contributions either to the Association or to this specialist area of physiotherapy are suitable candidates for these posts.

Currently, there are three vice-presidents of POGP.

Elizabeth (Betty) Barlow was associated with the Association in the early days of its existence, and she also served as chairman from 1976 to 1979.

Julie McKenna took up the chairmanship after Betty Barlow. She worked tirelessly to establish not only multi-professional links with both the Royal College of Midwives, and with obstetricians and gynaecologists, but also international relationships.

Margaret Bartaby became chairman in 1988, which was a time of rapid expansion for the Association as it took on a wider role in women's health.

Following the changes of the past year, there has been a campaign to promote the organization. This was seen as essential, not only in terms of the responsibilities of POGP to its members and the wider public audience, but also with regard to individual roles and scope of practice in this highly specialized area of physiotherapy.

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The honorary positions of president and vice-president provide the organization with another way to lift its public profile by appointing a recognizable and relevant president, and an opportunity for members to honour fellow physiotherapists in the specialty who have made an outstanding contribution to POGP and the profession.

Ruth Hawkes
Vice-chairman

References

- Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) (2012) *Professional Networks Handbook*. Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, London.
- Pelvic, Obstetric and Gynaecological Physiotherapy (POGP) (2013) *The Constitution of the Professional Network Pelvic, Obstetric and Gynaecological Physiotherapy (POGP)*. [WWW document.] URL <http://acpwh.csp.org.uk/documents/acpwh-constitution>