

## May Board meeting Wednesday, 15 May 2024



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### Chair's Report

- 1.1 Our Board last met on 20 March 2024 in London. It has since been a busy period of recruitment for the new chair of ARC, the new Associate Board Member and the new role of Director of Policy and Communications.
- 1.2 With respect to the new chair of ARC, Frances, Marcus and an independent panel member, Rommel Pereira, and I interviewed four candidates on 1 March 2024. A recommendation was made to the Privy Council, and I am delighted that Nick Simkins has now been confirmed in the role. Nick will take over from Frances in July. In the meantime, we will begin recruiting for a new Board member. This member can come from any part of the UK. We will manage the recruitment internally as we have found that this works well and results in considerable savings.
- 1.3 On 27 March 2024, Juliet, Nick and I interviewed five candidates for the new role of Associate Board Member and Ruth Ajayi was the successful candidate. Ruth Ajayi has had a number of paid and voluntary roles in the health sector. She was Senior Advisor, Integrated Care Systems (East of England) NHS England from 2020 to 2023 and had previously held other roles working for NHS England. She is currently the Chair of the Advisory Appointment Committee for Barts Health NHS Trust and she has a role as lay assessor for the Royal College of Physicians and a role as a lay examiner for the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Ruth's voluntary roles have included chairing the Whipps Cross Maternity Liaison Committee in 2011 to 2013 and being the Communications Lead for the NHS England Disability and Wellbeing Network from 2017 to 2019. Ruth has also completed the NED Accelerator Programme. I am delighted that Ruth is joining the Board of the PSA; I am confident that she will be a strong contributor to our discussions. Ruth has been invited to our May meeting but we have not yet had confirmation of her availability. A full induction programme for Ruth will be organised.
- 1.4 On 21 March 2024, Marcus and I joined Alan in interviewing for the new Director of Policy and Communications role. It was a strong field and five candidates were taken forward to interview. Melanie Venables was the outstanding candidate and will take on the role from 1 July 2024. I am sure you will want to join me in congratulating Mel and I look forward to working with Mel in her new role.
- 1.5 Alan and I have continued our programme of meeting the chairs and chief executives of the statutory regulators, meeting with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) on 15 April 2024, and Social Work England (SWE) on 23 April 2024. At the NMC meeting we were given an update on their FtP workload; as you will know the NMC has not met the standard for four years. This is clearly

the highest agenda item for the Council. Other areas covered included high profile cases, the whistle-blower matter, reform and the NMC's corporate plan. At the SWE meeting we discussed education, their funding model and its implications and levels of referrals. On 3 May 2024 we will be meeting the General Dental Council. Further updates on all these meetings will be given in the stakeholder part of the agenda.

- 1.6 I continue to meet with staff including all new joiners, which is a pleasure. I have also attended Public Chairs' Forum (PCF) events and I am leading part of three training sessions organised by the PCF for newly appointed chairs.
- 1.7 The Nominations Committee is continuing to have regular meetings to ensure that the upcoming four recruitment processes (a replacement for Nick and Board Members for NI and Scotland and slightly later, Cymru/Wales) that we have scheduled over the next 12 months run smoothly.
- 1.8 Finally, this will be Christine's last Board meeting. Christine has been a tremendous contributor to the work of the PSA and to the health sector over many years. We will greatly miss her wisdom, expertise and long corporate memory. I hope that you will join me in thanking Christine for all that she has done for the PSA and also in wishing Christine a long and happy retirement.
- 1.9 I look forward to seeing you at our board meeting and strategy session in London on 15 May 2024.

Caroline Corby  
26 April 2024